

2-1952

## Beacon Light: February 1952

St. Cloud Hospital

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# BEACON LIGHT

Volume II Number 6

ST. CLOUD HOSPITAL

February, 1952







During February throughout our nation we celebrate the birthday of two great leaders, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. When we were in grade school, we looked up to these men as great heroes. Now that we have grown older we know them to have been great men, and we think of Patriotism. What is

Patriotism? It is a love for one's country. How can we show our patriotism? Does it consist in wild waving of flags? or in standing at rigid attention during the playing of the Star Spangled Banner? Or does one's presence at the polls, or minding of regulations laid down by civil authorities, or sharing one's goods with the needy, or praying for those who legislate for us, show true patriotism? We need not be noisy about it, and yet we can be true patriots like Lincoln and Washington.



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#### HOSPITAL PERSONNEL

(Listing taken as of December 31, 1951)

Hospital aides	80	Sisters	75	
Nurses' aides	51	Students		
Graduate nurses	72	Nurses	160	
Clerical workers	14	Lab	5	
Graduate technicians	17	X-ray	12	
Orderlies	4			177
Chefs	2	Chaplains	2	
Engineers and Maintenance men	29			
Laundry workers	16			254
Doctors	4			
	289			289

GRAND TOTAL 543

## THE A B C'S OF A GOOD EMPLOYEE

(This is the first in a series of articles written for our employees.)



**A** Are you ALERT? Every employee must be alert to his surroundings not only for his own safety but for the safety of others. We must also be ever watchful as to how to improve the work we are doing, always keeping in line with general rules.



**B** Are you a good BOSS? Many of you are supervisors of a specific work and have other people working under you. Do you show them what you want done? and how? and why? We all like to know the reason for things.



**C** Do you know how to CONCENTRATE? It is absolutely essential that we get down to business and really put our whole mind to the job that is to be done. Our patients are too important to allow us to do in a haphazard way any work that deals even only indirectly with them.



**D** Do you like DETAIL? Remember, it's "the little things that count" - the little details that make the difference. If you really look after the little details, your work will not be mediocre but outstanding. Nothing is too good for the sick.



**E** How's your EFFORT? This is perhaps one of the greatest attributes of a successful employee. He puts forth that little extra effort that his co-workers fail to put forth. Work doesn't get done without some effort. As long as the job needs to be done, why not do it well?

## GRADUATE NURSES

"There are actually more graduate nurses on duty in the United States than ever before. Yet the number is far short of the total needed to staff our hospitals, industrial clinics and public health agencies and to fill the many other civilian posts which call for professional nursing services - not to mention fulfilling the demands of the nation's defense program.

"Reasons for the shortage are numerous: the population of our country has increased 15,000,000 in the last 10 years; more people are living to an older age than ever before; nurses' working hours have been shortened; and hospital admissions in the United States jumped from 10,087,000 patients in 1940 to 16,422,000 by 1948."

-----Editorial

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WE  
MISSED  
YOU!

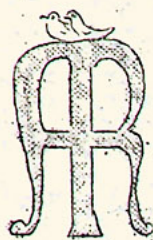
We're sorry that you couldn't all be there for our Christmas Party. About 225 were present. We want to thank those who took part in the Epiphany Scene and all those who in any way helped to make the evening a pleasant one.

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Behind an able man there  
always are other able men.



February 2 - Feast of the Purification  
Presentation  
Candlemas



The Mosaic law required all mothers to go to Jerusalem forty days after the birth of a child to offer the prescribed sacrifice and thereby be purified. Did Mary come to the temple because she needed to be purified? Mary, God's own mother, never knew sin in her soul! She needed no purification but she consented to law and authority and for us is an example of submission. But more than that! She, the Mother of God, offered her son Jesus, the Son of God, to God the Father. How stupendous! And yet this offering continues each day when our priests, not the mother but the ministers of God, offer Christ to God at Holy Mass. It is the same Christ and the same God! In our meditation we wish we too had been there with Simeon and Anna to witness the first offering. They were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Would we have recognized the Holy Family as they humbly and without show came through the motley crowd at the temple door? Very likely not, and then we would have missed the Presentation, but now we can at each Holy Mass be attentive, alert, and offer Christ with the priest.

At the Presentation as Simeon held the Divine Infant in his arms, he exclaimed, "A light to the revelation of the Gentiles!" Very fittingly the Church on this day blesses her candles. The prayers of the blessing imply the many uses of the blessed candle: "bless and sanctify these candles for the use of men, and the health of bodies and souls whether upon the earth or in the waters." The procession of candles recalls the journey of Mary and Joseph with the Child Jesus. St. Anselm, a Doctor of the Church, says, "The wax of the candle signifies the virginal flesh of the Divine Infant, the wick figures His soul and the flame His Divinity." Let us be sure we have in our homes a blessed candle, a worthy sacramental.

February 3 - Feast of St. Blaise

Yesterday candles were blessed and today they are used in a very special manner in the blessing of St. Blaise. Blessing is given to safeguard the individual and to protect him from all throat maladies. We should avail ourselves of the opportunity given us to receive the blessing. Watch the bulletin board for further announcements.



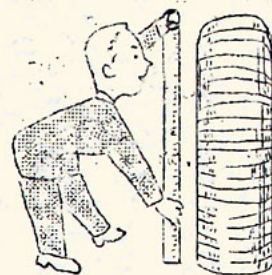
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February 14 - Feast of St. Valentine



St. Valentine, a priest of Rome, really practiced true charity and love of God. The feast has degenerated into a day of silly, puppy-love, sentimental affairs. Let us try to raise it to a higher plane by really doing some work of charity or love on the day. It may well be done for a good friend, a lover, or father or mother, but let it be genuine and sincere.

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STACK 'EM

HIGH!

Have you contributed  
to the March of Dimes  
yet?

"AVERAGE" POLIO YEAR

"Minnesota's experience with regard to poliomyelitis in 1951 was 'neither good nor bad,' says Dr. D. S. Fleming, chief of the Section of Preventable Diseases, Minnesota Department of Health.

"Minnesota residents who were reported to have polio up to December 15, 1951, numbered 488, and of these 29 died. Because 65 to 70 per cent of all cases are in children, polio may be said to be a childhood disease. On the other hand, a higher proportion of deaths occurs in the adults who develop polio. Residual muscle weakness that may cause crippling occurs in a small percentage of cases. Up to the same time, 27 of Minnesota's 87 counties had reported no polio. No alarming epidemic centers appeared in the state, but cases occurred generally where they might be expected from the size of the community.

"The annual 'March of Dimes' carried on by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to obtain funds for research, public education, and care of polio cases opened January 2 and will continue through January 31."

---Minn. Dept. of Health

MEDICAL STAFF ELECTS OFFICERS

The following officers and heads of services were elected for the year 1952:

President	Dr. F.H. Baumgartner
Vice President	Dr. J.F. Kelly
Secretary	Dr. R.T. Petersen

Heads of Services:

Medicine	Dr. H.E. Sisk
Surgery	Dr. Wm. Friesleben
Anesthesia	Dr. R.N. Jones
Obstetrics	Dr. F.J. Schatz
Orthopedics	Dr. C.F. Brigham, Jr.
Pediatrics	Dr. L.A. Veranth
EENT	Dr. T.N. Fleming
Laboratory	Dr. Thos. Simon
X-ray	Dr. C.B. Nessa

The following committees were appointed to function during the year:

Executive Committee:

Dr. F.H. Baumgartner  
Dr. J.F. Kelly  
Dr. R.T. Petersen  
Dr. Wm. Friesleben  
Dr. J.B. Gaida  
Dr. H.B. Clark

Credentials Committee:

Dr. Henry Goehrs  
Dr. Karl Walfred

DEDICATION

Sunday, January 13, was the dedication of the Community Memorial Hospital at New Prague. SISTER MARY JUDE is the administrator. (For details, read the St. Cloud Register, January 25th issue.)



## NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES HAS INCREASED

If you have been an employee here for some time you will have noticed the steady increase in the number of employees. Have you perhaps wondered why? There are several reasons to account for this, reasons that probably could be found in the experience of most general hospitals:

1. The decreasing length of stay of the patient gives the hospital more patients to care for. More patients increase the work in all departments. The admitting office must handle more persons daily. The x-ray department must take more pictures. The laboratory must examine more specimens. Nurses must care for more patients. The dietary department must prepare more meals. The housekeeping department must wash rooms and furniture more often. The laundry must process more linen.

2. There has been a gradual lessening of the work week for all employees. In 1941 employees worked from 48 to 52 hours a week; today they work from 40 to 44 hours. Many mechanical devices have been created in the last ten years to make labor easier, but the care of the patient is still hand work. In fact, all new medical advances have tended to increase the hand work rather than cut it down.

3. A general change in hospitals' accounting system demands more work. More complicated billings are required for third-party payments and more financial and statistical reports are called for by the various agencies.

4. The so-called miracle drugs take a great deal more time and effort to prepare and administer. Ten years ago most medicine was given orally; today hypodermically. Medication by injection calls for more work by the nursing staff and also increases work

in the laboratory since the blood levels of a patient must be watched more carefully.

5. Various departments have added new services which increase the hospital's usefulness but require employment of additional personnel.

In addition to the above, there are other contributing factors. These include:

- Cafeteria service for all employees.
- Changes in the requirements of Nursing service, making it more complicated and extensive.
- An increase in the number of students and changes in education which call for more faculty and more supervision of students.

### ST. CLOUD HOSPITAL

(List of employees excluding Sisters)

	<u>1941</u>	<u>1951</u>
Hospital aides		80
Nurses' aides	31	51
Graduate nurses	26	72
Clerical workers	-	14
Graduate technicians	-	17
Orderlies	1	4
Chefs	-	2
Engineers and Maintenance Men	17	29
Laundry workers	7	16
Doctors	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	84	289

(We now have less Sister-nurses and Sister-technicians, necessitating a larger number of lay employees in these fields.)

February 10 - Feast of St. Scholastica

To most of the world, to the church-going people at least, February 10 this year is Septuagesima Sunday which closes the Christmas season and ushers in the penitential season to be climaxed by Easter. But for the Sisters of St. Benedict the world over, this year the feast of St. Scholastica takes preference to Septuagesima Sunday. Who was St. Scholastica that she is given such a preference? She was the twin sister of St. Benedict, the originator of the Holy Rule, and she with his help founded a religious community for women known as the Sisters of St. Benedict. The Rule, written in the early 6th century, with some modifications for time and place, is being followed today. St. Scholastica is a powerful intercessor for those who follow her. Because you as an employee or friend of the St. Cloud Hospital operated by the Sisters of St. Benedict are a part of the Benedictine family, you surely can expect her to take an interest in you. Try her out! Happy Feast!



February 27 - ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins. It is a time of fasting and penance. Fasting need not mean a curtailing of food intake. It may mean taking something for which you have no particular liking. It may mean refraining from some remark that's on the tip of your tongue. It may mean doing some kind act for someone whom you do not especially like. The word "fasting" has many meanings. Find one that fits you.

How about an hour of adoration each week praying for world peace? That should not be a penance, and yet it can entail sacrifice on your part.



# PERSONALS

MISS BARBARA PHIPPS replaces MRS. STRACK as head of the Special Diet Kitchen. . . .



Is there sunshine in Arkansas? Ask RITA WAVRICK who has just spent some time there, having earlier been hospitalized here for pneumonia. . .

Medical Staff News !!



Was it planned or not? It so happened that DR. SHERWOOD and DR. CESNIK were patients here at the same time, in rooms facing each other. . .

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We heard by the grapevine that there is a new "little Wetzel" at the DR. WETZEL home. . . .

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DR. BROKER from Eden Valley will leave shortly to complete his fellowship in surgery. . . .

\*\*\* \*\*

DR. WILLIAM AUTREY is a newcomer in St. Cloud - he has joined the Richards Clinic. . . .

Our CONGRATULATIONS to MARY HOHMANN who was married to William Pikus on January 14, 1952. Mary has been employed as an X-ray technician since September, 1949.



. . . and our CONGRATULATIONS to DR. and MRS. JOHN BEUNING on the arrival of a baby girl,

and to the following new mothers:

MRS. ROBERT HOLLANDER (Mabel Gross)  
MRS. ROBERT HUSO (Laverne Miller)

\*\*\* \*\*

SISTER GIOVANNI will begin a Nurses' Aide course for local Camp-fire Girls on February 5. The course consists of 10 class hours.



HEAD OF  
RETRIEVER CLUB

TONY BERGER was elected president of the Central Minnesota Retriever Club. Have you a dog to train? --see Tony.



OUR SYMPATHY TO:  
JOSEPH PATSCH on the recent death of his sister, and to  
SISTER MARMION on the recent death of her father.

## HOSPITAL STATISTICS 1951

(taken from the annual report)

Number of bed patients	-----	13,154
Male patients	-----	4,727
Female patients	-----	8,427
St. Cloud Patients	-----	5,933
Out-of-city	-----	7,221
Number of out-patients registered	-----	10,637
Average duration of patient stay	--	6.9 days
Number of doctors on the staff	-----	51

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## IT'S INTERESTING TO KNOW. . . .

That 30 trades and professions are represented among the employees of an average hospital. . .

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APPROXIMATELY.. 250,000 persons of all ages have died in the U.S. of cancer during 1951, or one out of every seven deaths. Cancer killed 2½ times as many Americans during World War II as did a well-armed enemy.

----A hospital magazine

## BLOOD BANK

An agreement has been made with the Minneapolis War Memorial Blood Bank whereby:

1. blood given to patients from The War Memorial Blood Bank may be replaced at the St. Cloud Hospital Blood Bank,
2. vice versa, blood given to patients from the St. Cloud Hospital Blood Bank may be replaced at the Minneapolis War Memorial Blood Bank.

This should be of interest to St. Cloud people who are or will be patients in Minneapolis hospitals.