

1968



JAMES GIBBONS, eight pounds, three ounces and born at 7:38 Monday morning, New Year's day was the first baby born in 1968 at the Providence Hospital. He is shown here with his mother, Mrs John Gibbons. The Gibbons' who moved here a year and a half ago from Portage la Prairie, Man, have three other children: Tracy, six, Teresa,

five and John, two. At press time it appeared that Mr and Mrs Gibbons were the winners in the Alaska Highway News' First Baby Contest, as no earlier births had been reported from the outlying areas of the North Peace. Mrs Gibbons was also the recipient of a cheque from the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Providence Hospital.



10 YRS AGO — JAN 24, 1968
 THE EXECUTIVE to the Women's Auxiliary to the Providence Hospital were installed Monday evening at an impressive candle-light ceremony in the Scott Motor Hotel. Performing the honors was Mrs R Burke, Regional Representative of the BCHA from Williams Lake. Shown also in the picture were Mrs Tulie Hamilton, second Vice-President, Mrs Lucy Scheck, Past President, Mrs Fay Boyd, Secretary, Mrs Vern Ferris, Publicity Chairman, Mrs Gay Spicer, First Vice-President, Mrs Bertha Kirschner, President and Mrs Bob Bruce, Treasurer. Not shown in the picture was Mrs Di Brooks. Approximately 95 members and guests attended the dinner meeting.

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past president; Mrs Fay Boyd, secretary; Mrs Vern Ferris, publicity chairman; Mrs Gay Spicer, first vice-president; Mrs Bertha Kirschner, president and Mrs Bob Bruce, treasurer. Not shown in this picture is Mrs Di Brooks. Approximately 95 members and guests attended the dinner meeting. JAN 31, 1968



10 YRS AGO — JAN. 23, 1968
 PICTURED presenting a cheque to the Providence Hospital to cover the cost of a cardiac pace maker was Ian Stewart, President of the Fort St John Lions Club. The pacemaker is the little piece of equipment, resembling a transistor radio, shown on the left of the picture. Also present from the Lions Club was D Saun, Treasurer. Seen on the right is Mrs Lucy Scheck, Immediate Past President of the Women's Auxiliary to the Providence Hospital. The WA has donated the monitor scope and defibrillator, seen in front of Mrs Scheck, and worth around \$1,500. The two pieces of equipment work together and were bought as a co-operative project. Seen accepting them here is Sister LeClerc, Administrator of the Hospital.

PRESENTING A CHEQUE to the Providence Hospital last week to cover the cost of a cardiac pace maker was Ian Stewart, president of the Fort St John Lions Club. The pace maker is the little piece of equipment, resembling a transistor radio, shown in the left of the picture. Also present from the Lions Club was D Saun, treasurer. Seen on the right is Mrs Lucy Scheck, im-

mediate past president of the Women's Auxiliary to the Providence Hospital. The WA has donated the monitor scope and defibrillator, seen in front of Mrs Scheck, and worth around \$1,500. The two pieces of equipment work together and were bought as a co-operative project. Seen accepting them here is Sister LeClerc, administrator of the hospital.

JAN 31, 1968



SISTER DeCHANT OF THE Providence Hospital accepts a new wheel chair which has been donated to the hospital by the Junior Red Cross Club of Bert Bowes Jr Secondary School. Presenting the wheel chair to Sister DeChant were Heather Brummet, president of the club and Kevan King.

Junior Red Cross gives wheel chair

The 30 members of the club, sponsored by Mrs D Paripovic, have also carried out other projects. They have made international friendship albums consisting of pictures of our community, province and country. These albums were exchanged with clubs in other countries. To date the club has received albums from Greece and Thailand and have sent one to Morocco. Another album by this club was sent to the International Red Cross Leadership Headquarters in Ottawa to be forwarded to a foreign country.

Besides the donation of the wheel chair and books, in the previous school year the club donated a sum of money to the hospital.

Last Wednesday the Junior Red Cross Club of Bert Bowes Jr Secondary School presented the Providence Hospital with a wheel chair. This donation was part of the Junior Red Cross' community service project. The club has also held a book drive and collected reading material for the hospital patients.

The fund raising campaigns for these projects started out last fall with the book drive. The young people had, as well, a penny drive to which the secondary school students donated about \$16. The club finds its projects receive strong support from the students. Over the year its concession at the school has earned about \$100.



THE CAPPING CEREMONY was held in the banquet room of the Providence Hospital on Monday, March 11, for the Candy Strippers. They are the junior members of the Hospital Women's Auxiliary. These girls received their caps after 20 hours or more of volunteer help on the various wards of the hospital. The decorations were adequate and the ceremony was attended by the mothers of the girls being capped. Refreshments were served. All were favorably impressed by the proceedings of the ceremony. From left to right in back row are: Patty Graham, Candy Henry, Rita Donn, Lynn Shevkenek, Helen Smith, Sharon Burton, Candy Moskalyk, Avy Ramey, and Sheri Stalley. Centre Row, right to left, are: Dixie Marshall, Caroline Alpaugh, Francine Blanchette, Darlene Letourneau, Ann McGarvey, Colleen Scheck, Lise Blanchette, and Charmaine Bjornson. Front row, left to right: Wanda Cran, Heather Brummett, Suzan Levac, Linda Schmidt, Eva Hjelm, Tammy Ratrey, Lois Fehr, and Fai Blais. APR 17, 1968



MISS JO-ANN KIRKPATRICK graduated on August 11 from St Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. Jo-Ann will be returning to Fort St John to nurse in Providence Hospital. APR 21, 1968

CONGRATULATIONS TO the Providence Hospital Candy Strippers who earned over \$300 on Saturday when they held a tag day **MAY 12 1968**

Operation Doorstep

Ed McLachlan, survey organizer for Operation Doorstep, which visited the North Peace last week, stated this week that a total of 6,943 persons from Fort St John, Taylor and surrounding communities took advantage of the operation's two mobile X-Ray clinics while they were in the North Peace.

Many people from surrounding communities drove in excess of 50 miles to receive their free tuberculin skin tests and chest X-Rays.

McLachlan expressed gratitude to all news media for publicizing Operation Doorstep and attracting such large crowds to the vans. He also paid tribute to the hundreds of women who volunteered their services as convenors, zone captains, van registration clerks, door-to-door canvassers and daily needle cleaners.

Annual ball goes Hawaiian

APR 24, 1968

Start digging out the grass skirts, the muumuus and the leis, the Providence Hospital Women's Auxiliary plan its annual hospital ball on the Hawaiian theme this year with dress either Hawaiian or casual. The ball will be held in the Immaculata Auditorium on May 24 with music by the Rhythmn Knights. The cost will be \$7 per couple, proceeds will go toward

the purchase of a respirator for the hospital which is one of this year's projects for the WA.

On May 11, the Hospital WA will be holding a tag day with the Candy Strippers doing the tagging. Two members of the WA Bertha Kirschner and Jo Sandahls will be going to the BC Hospital Auxiliaries Convention on May 3. The convention will be held in Prince George.

Hawaii called, 300 responded

Hawaii called and nearly 300 gaily-dressed dancers responded to crowd the Immaculata Auditorium for the Second Annual Hospital Ball last Friday night.

Guests were greeted at the door by grass-skirted wahines who placed a lei over the shoulders of each. The most astounding feature of the evening was however, the decor of the auditorium. WA members Bertha Kirschner and Jo Sandahls with the help of their husbands turned the place into an island paradise for the evening.

Behind the musicians on the stage was a curved wide-screen effect back-drop. From the back of the hall, the palms silhouetted against a glowing sunset almost seemed to sway. The refreshment centre was, of course, a little grass hut sheltering in the palms. Huge tissue blooms set off the five piece-de-resistance totem

MAY 29, 1968
poles. These looked so authentic that many asked if they had been brought from the islands. The totem poles were in fact carved by WA members from old telephone poles and stained brown.

Entertainment following supper was supplied by Dale McKenzie. Particularly good was her rendition of a number from South Pacific.

Dance music was by the Rhythm Knights.

COMING EVENTS

APR 10, 1968
THURS., APRIL 11 - The Providence Hospital WA will hold a Tag Day.

SAT., APRIL 13 - The annual Providence Hospital WA Easter bake sale in the Co-op store, 2 pm to 5 pm. Memberships will be sold.



ST PAUL'S HOSPITAL GRADUATE - Miss Marian Murray of Fort St John was one of 75 graduating registered nurses of St Paul's School of Nursing in Vancouver August 11 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Miss Murray is a graduate of North Peace Senior Secondary and is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Dan Murray of Fort St John.

APR 21, 1968

1968
FRI., MAY 24 - The WA to the Providence Hospital will hold its second annual hospital ball "Hawaii Calls" in the Immaculata Auditorium. Dancing from 10 to 2 to the music of the Rhythm Knights. Tickets available by contacting any WA member or by calling 785-6246.

Open -house

An open-house will be held at Providence Hospital tomorrow. This will give local residents a chance to see demonstrations of various aspects of hospital work.

For more information and pictures see inside this issue.

MAY 15 1968

Hospital costs take leap

Expenses — mostly wages — were revealed Wednesday night April 23 at the annual meeting of Providence General Hospital, Fort St John, to be up almost \$150,000 this year over last. (\$108,000 of this amount was directly due to increase in salaries in almost all departments.) Food for the year was up \$6000. Operation and maintenance of plant was up \$5000. Administration which includes employee benefits was up \$10,000.

Certification of Providence Hospital with the Union of Hospital Employees, raised wages which amounted to the \$108,000 referred to in the paragraph above. Breakdown shows increases in the following sampling of departments. Nursing services cost \$51,000 more this year than last, radiology costs were up \$7,000 partly because this facility has been increased and now requires more staff. The same with physiotherapy which is up \$4000. Administration for more beds has required more staff with increased wages all around. This department's wages are up \$12,000. The dietary staff, which mans the hospital kitchens, was paid \$11,000 more in wages this year than last while house-keeping was up \$10,000.

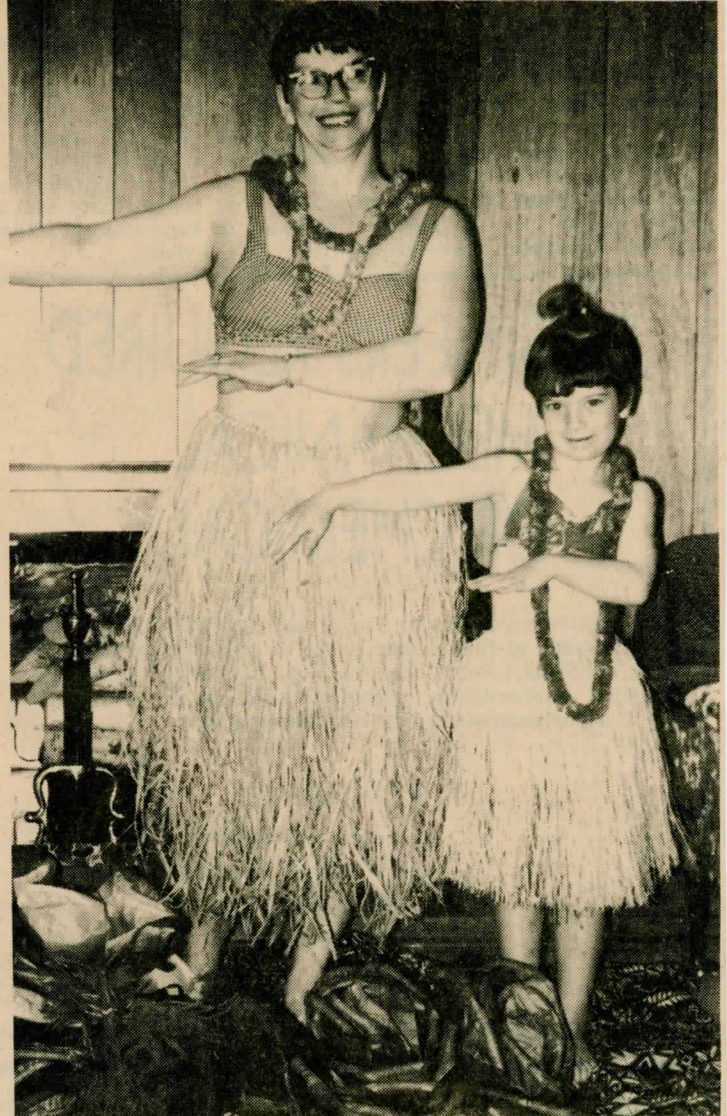
1967 was a year of achievement at the hospital. In the summer, following an official survey, Providence was placed on the list of fully accredited hospitals. Dr Keith Dixon, having completed three years of postgraduate work in Montreal in the field of obstetrics and gynecology, resumed practise having successfully passed his examiners. Dr Donald Stewart joined the medical staff. One of the outstanding externs (a senior medical student) to join the summer staff at the hospital came in 1967. Dr Bob Clarke, a native of this community, served here for three months and upon leaving to resume his studies was tendered

MAY 8, 1968
a luncheon along with a \$1000 cheque for services rendered. The board of management and the medical staff are anxious to attract young doctors of Clarke's calibre to return upon graduation.

Supervisors of departments on the nursing staff were sent out on six different courses, all of which were workshops or institutes on various facets of nursing care.

Other interesting statistics to come out of the annual statements and reports are the fact that after five years of operation every service is up except babies born in the hospital. There were 10 fewer births in 1967 than there were in 1962. Beds for medical and surgical patients were up, beds for obstetrics were down, and for pediatrics remained about the same.

There were 1,082 operations conducted in 1967. Emergency patients had 1,622 treatments and 30,000 meals were served in hospital. A total of 3,321 patients were cared for in 1967.



SHOWING OFF THE type of costume which will be in order for the Hospital Women's Auxiliary Ball to be held on May 24 are Mrs Ruth Bruce and five-year-old Janie Ferris.

'Get interested in your hospital'

MAY 15, 1968
On May 24 the Immaculata Auditorium will be changed into a bit of Hawaii with grass huts, loops of leis and grass skirts and muumuus on the dancing women. The Providence Hospital Women's Auxiliary will be holding their annual ball, this year with an Hawaiian theme. Music will be by the Rythmn Knights and the Catholic Women's League will be catering.

The hard-working group of women who make up our local hospital WA have an avowed mission of providing comfort and a pleasant atmosphere for the patients' stay in the hospital. To this end they provide shampoos for women patients, supply reading, smoking and candy needs from a cart they push through the wards. As well they try to supply other little comforts that nurses are too busy to provide.

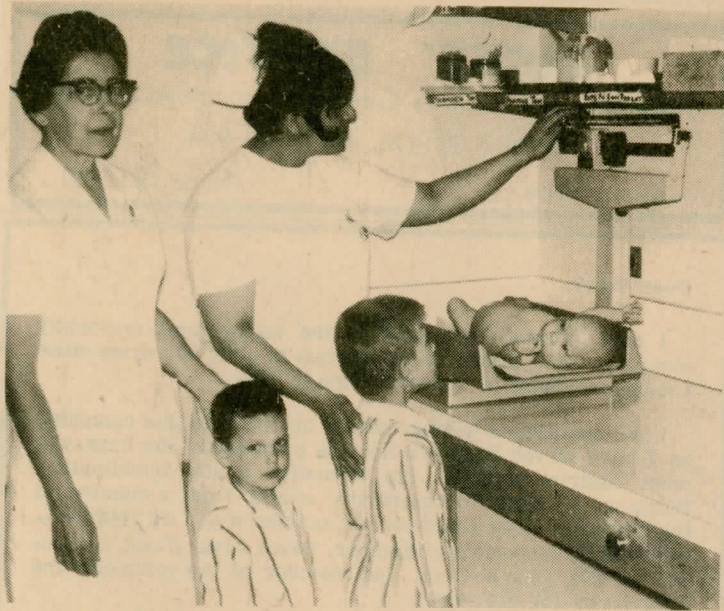
which was their centennial project. This machine cost the WA around \$1,500 and the money was raised through social events, bazaars and teas. Other recent purchases made for the hospital by the WA include a blood bank, isolettes for the nursery and insulated coffee mugs for the ward patients. A respirator is planned as their next project. The women also hope to be able to provide a lot more of the in-service care which is their real concern.

Bertha Kirschner, Hospital WA president says the need for more members is very important. One mistaken idea held by many here

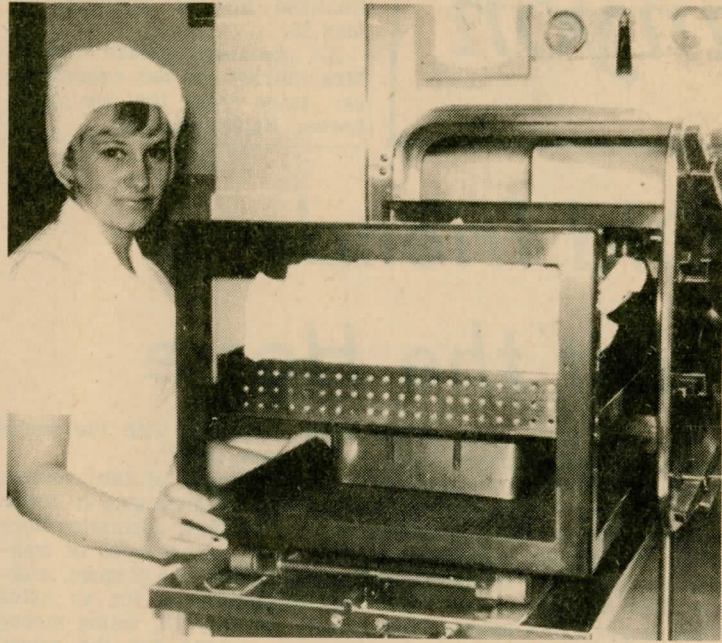
With their money-raising efforts the women have bought such equipment for the hospital as the heart machine or defibrillator

SAT., MAY 11 — The WA to the Providence Hospital will hold a Tag Day. 1968

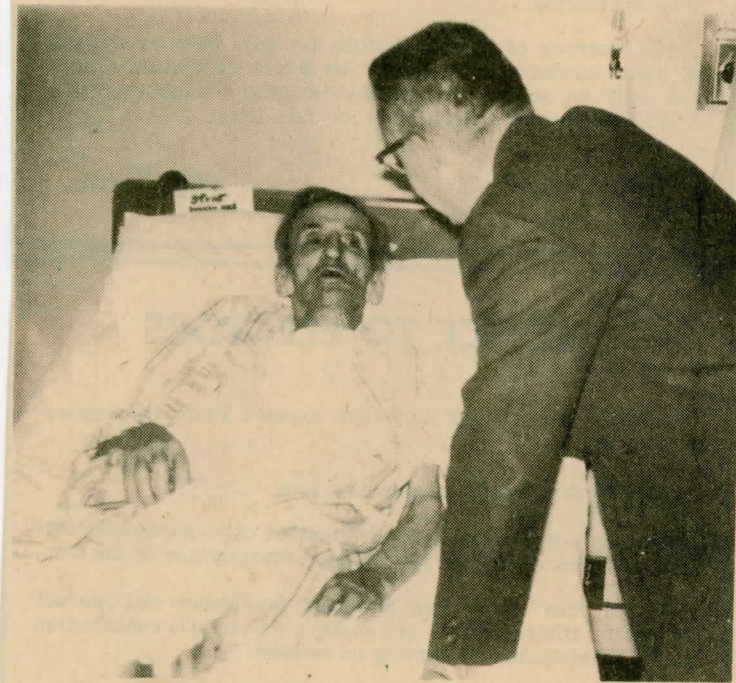
HOSPITAL FACILITIES SHOW



MRS PAIN (glasses) and Miss P Doman weigh baby Jimmy Carter while youngsters Rocky Haggart and Allan Lear look on. The scales were donated by the Jedney community.



MRS FRAN MACLACHLAN operating an autoclave which sterilizes with moist heat.



PATIENT MR DEFKE is visited by Dr G Westover.



FAY FORSTER, filing clerk, is seen here with a portion of the hospital's enormous filing room.

WN DURING OPEN HOUSE

MAY 15, 1968

As a part of the hospital week across Canada the Providence Hospital will be holding an open house tomorrow from 2 to 5 p.m. The public is invited to tour the hospital, get acquainted with its services and facilities and partake of tea during the afternoon. The staff hopes to have set up displays of equipment and procedures used in the hospital.

This week will also mark the official opening of the new wing in our hospital. This new wing adds 11 beds, an increase from 85. Three beds will soon become available in the intensive care

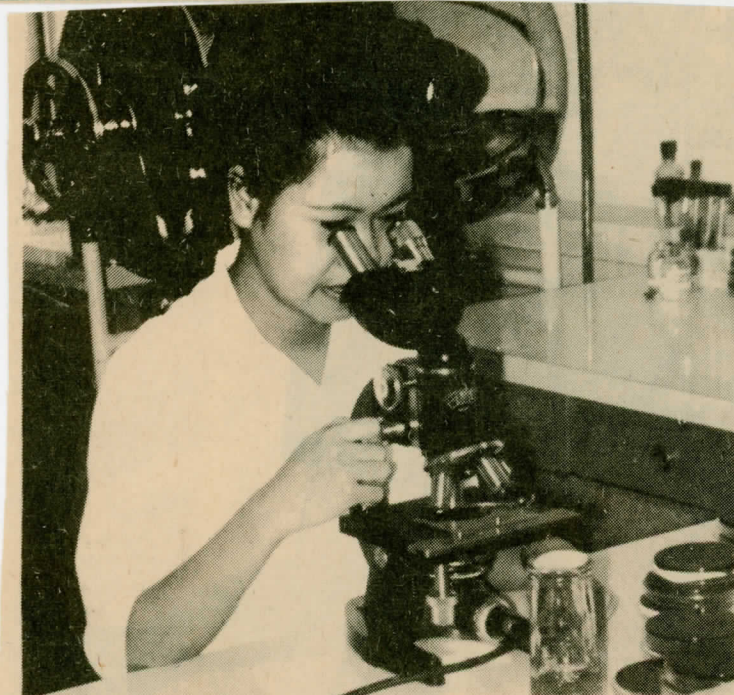
unit which is not quite completed. Also on display at the open house will be the newly acquired 500 MA X-ray unit. Of interest is the fact that the hospital has a staff of about 125 of which 70 persons are on the nursing staff.

A very necessary section of the workers at the hospital are the Auxiliaries which include the Women's Auxiliary and the Candy Stripers. There are 45 Candy Stripers at the Providence Hospital of whom five have received their pins for more than 100 hours of volunteer service. These girls who are 13 to 18 years old

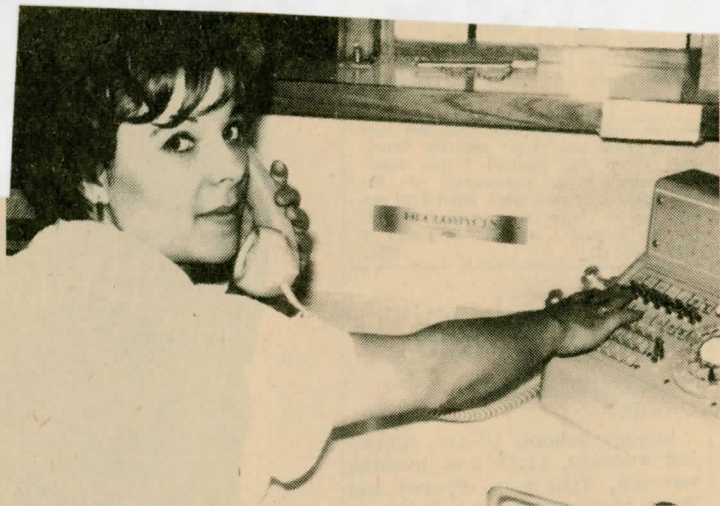
receive a cap when they have completed 20 hours of service and a red stripe for their cap when they've done 50 hours. The girls work mainly with the patients helping to feed them, helping them groom themselves, reading and writing letters for them. They are under the convensorship of Mrs

Jo Sandahls of the Women's Auxiliary.

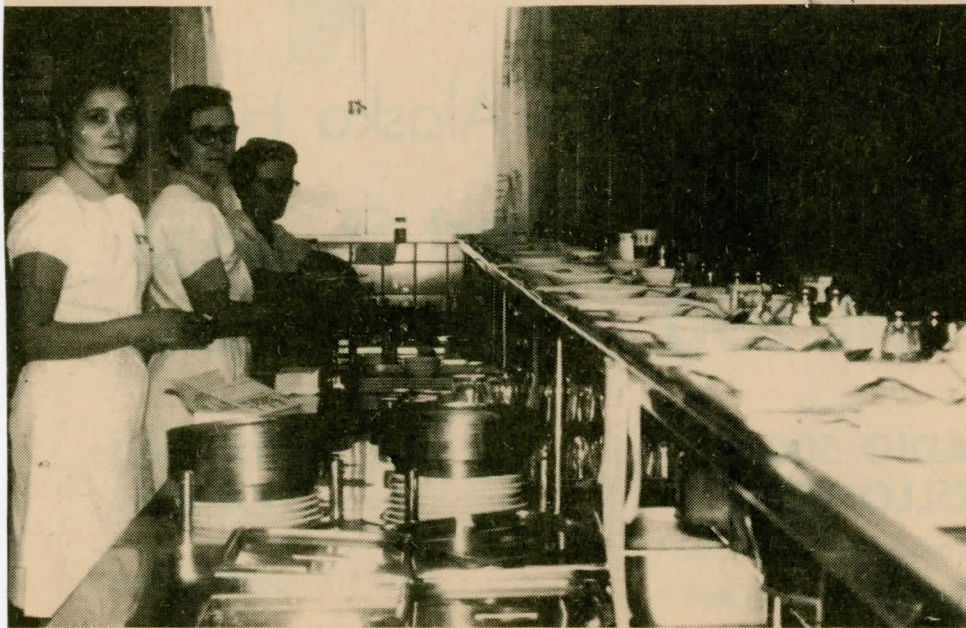
In 1968, through its Save a Life program, St John Ambulance hopes to train at least 175,000 Canadians in the techniques of artificial respiration.



LAB TECHNICIAN Miss Sylvia Quijano is caught here in the hospital's bright and modern lab.



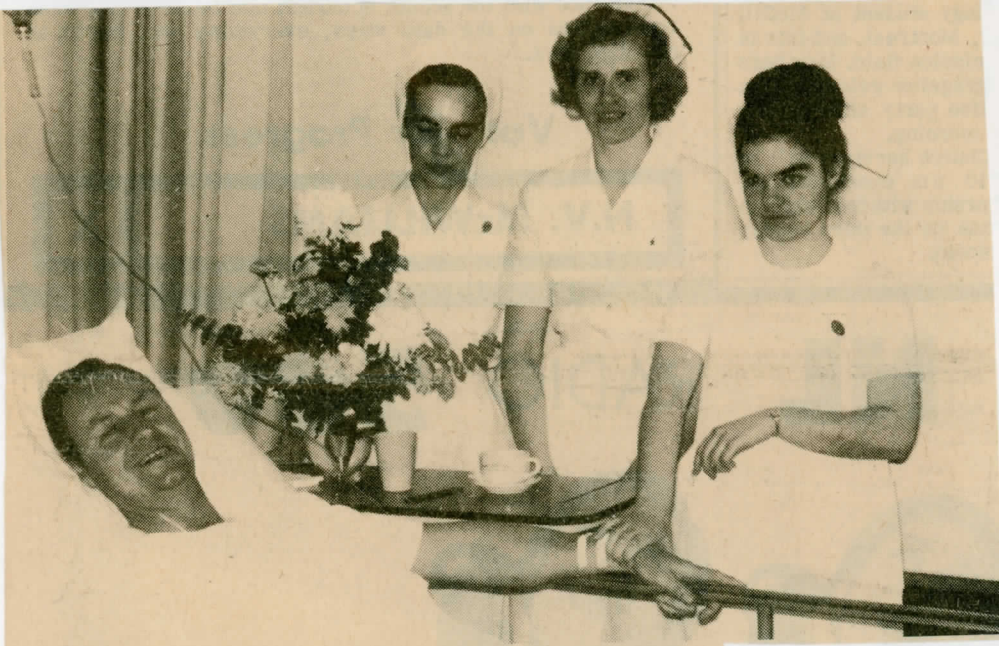
ONE OF THE FRIENDLY girls you're likely to reach when you phone the hospital is switchboard operator Miss Maria Castaganna.



DOWN IN THE KITCHEN the meals are being prepared. Shown here, left to right, are: Mrs H Emsley, Loretta Erman and Lucy Chartier.



RAY SOWDEN, CARPENTER, is busy putting the finishing touches to the new X Ray room in the hospital. Completely new X Ray equipment has recently been aquired.



OCT 23, 1968
 A NURSE WHO could be almost called the "second mother" a dozens of North Peace young people has been chosen as the recipient of this year's "Woman of the Year Award". Mrs Vi Woodward, on whom the BPWC bestowed the award, is the head nurse at the maternity ward in the Providence Hospital.

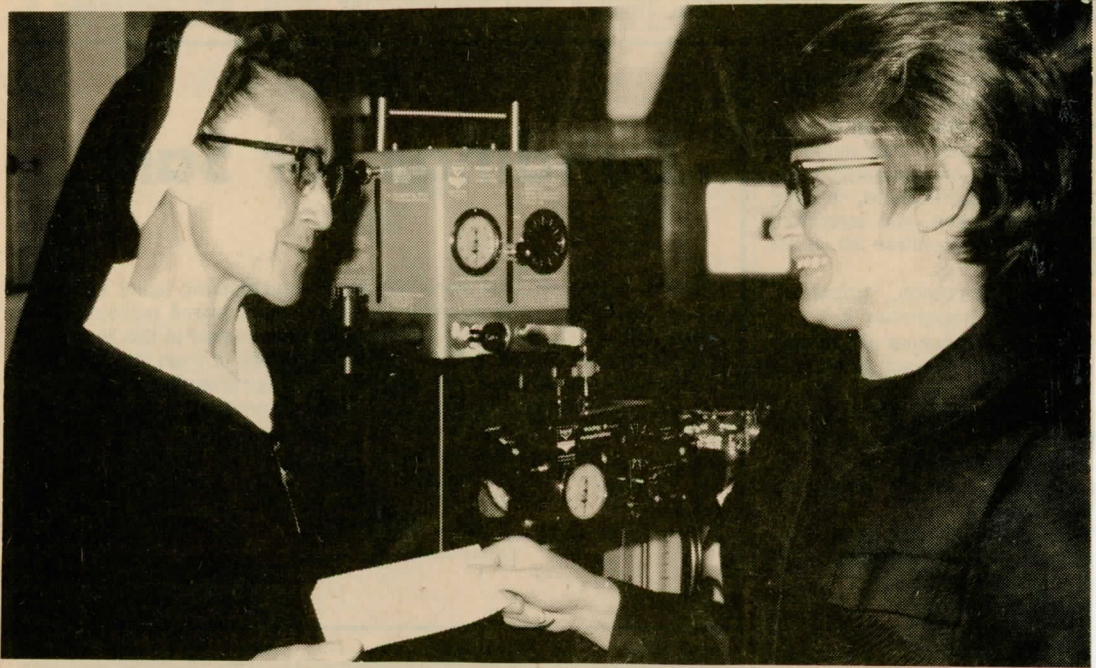
EX-RESIDENT OF FORT ST JOHN, Cec Dilkie came up from his home in Edmonton last week and found himself grounded in the new wing of Providence Hospital with a case of appendicitis. Sharing his misery with him here are (left to right) Sister DeChant, Mrs Carol Forrest and Mrs Sue-Ann McGilivray.

MON., JUNE 17 - The regular meeting of the Providence Hospital W A will be held at 8 p m in the auxiliary room. JUN 12, 1968

MON., SEPT. 16 - The monthly meeting of the Providence Hospital WA will be held at 8 p.m. in the Hospital Auxiliary Room. 1968

FORT ST JOHN, BC, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1968

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS



SISTER LECLERC, administrative head of the Providence Hospital accepts a cheque for \$2,000 from Mrs Bertha Kirschner, the president of the Hospital Women's Auxiliary. In the background is the Bird respirator which is being purchased with part of the funds donated by the

women. The funds will also help to buy some smaller items of equipment for the hospital. The WA which holds its first meeting of the fall on September 16 in the Auxiliary Rooms at the hospital has been instrumental in obtaining many necessary items for the hospital.

Help!

OCT 16, 1968

An emergency has risen in the local hospital which requires a little outside help. With the transfer of Sister Dechant to Taber, Alta recently, a group of young workers, the Candy Stripers, in the hospital are without a co-ordinator. The girls will have to disband if no one can be found to take charge of them. According to Mrs Bertha Kirschner, hospital Women's Auxiliary president, in the three years the Candy Stripers have been active in the Providence Hospital they have taken a tremendous load off the nurses particularly in the pediatrics ward.

The co-ordinator of the Candy Stripers should be a registered nurse and one who is retired from active nursing is quite acceptable. She would give lectures and do some teaching to the Candy Stripers but would not have to take on the whole job herself as others are available to give some assistance.

Any retired or active nurse in the community who is willing to give a few hours of each week in helping the girls is asked to telephone Mrs Kirschner at 5-6246. Mrs Kirschner stresses that this is an urgent matter and a co-ordinator will have to be found as soon as possible.

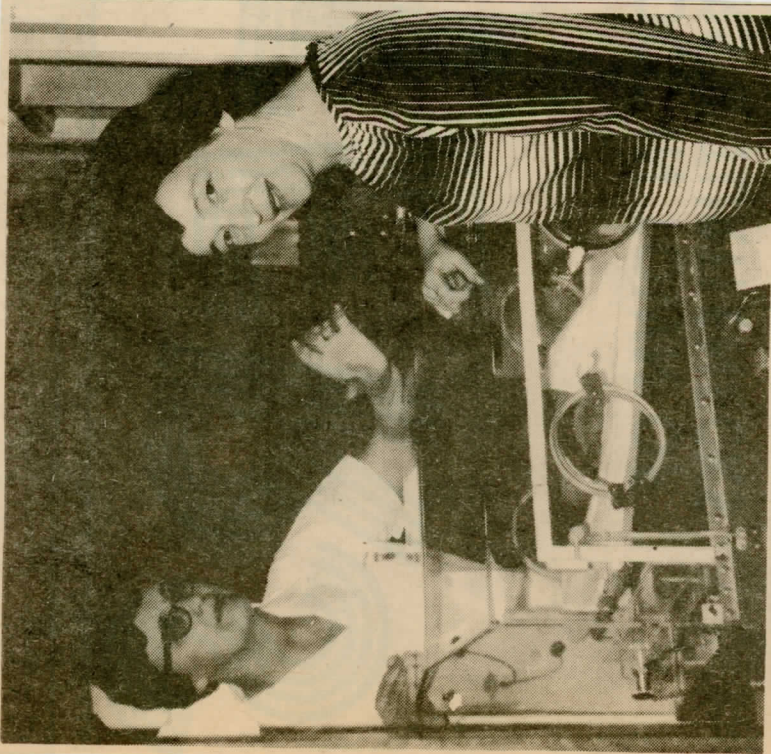
1968
OCTOBER



Oct 23, 1968

TWO WEEKS AGO THE Alaska Highway News ran a picture of triplets born to Mr and Mrs Charles Laderoute in the Providence Hospital. We said they were the first triplets born in this hospital, which was correct. Living in the Rose Prairie area, however are these healthy nine-year old triplets. Left to right they are Joan,

Jim and Joyce Frocklage. The triplets were born on June 12, 1959 in a Vancouver hospital. Their parents, Mr and Mrs Henry Frocklage, had moved from the Fort St John area and were living in Fort Nelson at the time of the birth. There are six other sons and daughters in the family.



Oct 23, 1968

MRS VI WOODWARD, the recipient of this year's Woman of the Year award from the Business and Professional Women's Club proudly shows Mrs Ina Adams (right), BPWC president the newest of a 30-year procession of 'her babies'. Mrs Woodward received the award in recognition of her many years in the North Peace as an out-post hospital nurse at Cecil Lake and for her community interest in women's club work. (See her story on this week's Woman's Page.)



MON., NOV. 18 - The regular monthly meeting of the Providence Hospital WA is to be held in the Auxiliary Room at 8 p.m. 1968

SAT., NOV. 30 - The annual Christmas Hospital WA Bazaar will be held between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. in the Immaculata Auditorium.

THIS LOVELY patchwork quilt displayed by members of the Providence Hospital Women's Auxiliary will be the prize at the groups annual bazaar on Saturday. The quilt was made by the Sisters of Providence in Edmonton. Many articles suitable for Christmas giving or your own use will be on sale at the bazaar. Mrs Bertha Kirschner holds a couple of the table centres which will be on sale while Joe Spicer wears and holds some novelty items. Mrs Dan Spicer is holding up the quilt to display it. The proceeds from the Hospital WA bazaar are used to purchase new equipment for the hospital.

NOVEMBER, 1968

Graduates trained in local hospital

Nov 20, 1968

Two young women who took eight months of their practical nurse's training in the Fort St John Providence Hospital were among members of the thirteenth practical nurses' graduating class of the Prince George Vocational School recently. Miss L Benson and Miss Shawn Pebernat received their diplomas and pins at the graduation exercises following four months of theory instruction in Prince George and the eight months of practical work here. Miss Benson is from Canmore, Sask and Miss Pebernat is from Vanderhoof.

is a difficult thing to do. You must give your love to people to make them creative and important for to be creative is one of the greatest tasks facing society today. So take the responsibility and make the time by working together to fulfill this task' . . .

Miss Pebernat received the Bedside Nursing Award, presented by an instructor. Both graduates will start employment this month. Miss Pebernat at Vanderhoof and Miss Benson at Hundred Mile House.

Rev Powell of St Michaels of the Angels Church, the vocational school psychologist and counselor addressed the graduation class with these words, "Your world is not to be a world of pens, charts and offices. You will have to make people laugh when the need arises and make them feel comforted. To do this you must be what you are and this

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS
FORT ST JOHN, BC, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1968

SECTION THREE, PAGE FIVE

Hospital WA tops in hours

Statistics brought to light at the annual provincial conference of the Auxiliaries Division of the BC Hospital Association held recently in the Vancouver Hotel, show the Auxiliary to Providence Hospital high, on the the in-service hours and money raised, columns, although far down on the number of members.

Over 200 women, representing 113 Auxiliaries from 77 different hospitals throughout BC attended the sessions, including two delegates from Fort St John.

Only 20 out of these 113 auxiliaries bettered the 2,350 volunteer in-service hours chalked up for Fort St John, and only 14 raised more than the \$6,555.93 the local group boasts of.

All this despite the fact that we were number 61 in total membership. With only 35 active and 14 associate members contributing to this tremendous achievement.

Their work is never done however and these women are already well into preparations for their annual Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday, November 30 from 2 to 5 pm in the Immaculata Auditorium. The tremendous support of the group in the past has truly been appreciated and the support in the future hoped for.

Hospital meeting

DEC 24, 1968

A meeting of the Peace River Regional District and Peace River Regional Hospital District was held in Fort St John the evening of Tuesday, December 17.

A complete report of not only this meeting, but the entire hospital district situation as it affects Fort St John will be appearing in a subsequent issue of the Alaska Highway News.



MISS L BENSON, left and Miss S Pebernat, practical nurses who received their training at the Fort St John Providence Hospital were graduates of the thirteenth practical nurses' class recently from the Prince George Vocational School. Miss Pebernat won an award during the ceremonies.

A PROUD MOTHER, Mrs Charles Laderoute displays her three tiny boys born at nearly noon last Saturday. Weighing in at four pounds nine ounces, four pounds five ounces and three pounds, two ounces, the boys have yet to be named. There is one other child in the Laderoute family, a three-year-old sister. With Mrs Laderoute and the babies is Mrs Vi Woodward, Providence Hospital nursing staff.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 Mrs Charles Laderoute gave birth to the first triplets to be born in Providence Hospital.

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS
FORT ST JOHN, B.C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1968.

SECTION ONE, PAGE SEVEN

Bouncing baby boys are first triplets born here

Three tiny boys born to Charles and Alice Laderoute last Saturday are the first set of triplets born in the North Peace according to the Providence Hospital. The triplets were born between 11:54 and 11:59 last Saturday have one sister, three years old at home.

Mrs Laderoute says neither she nor her physician, Dr G Westover, attribute the multiple birth to a hormone pill. The doctor told her it is a special type of hormone pill which causes multiple births and she has not been taking it. However, Mrs Laderoute feels the cause of her bevy of boys can be traced to family history as her grandmother had twins and her mother's aunt had

triplets.

Since the second week in September Mrs Laderoute has been aware she would give birth to triplets. They were due to be born on November 11 but their mother says she had been told it is not unusual for an early birth in such a case.

"I was to be admitted to hospital on October 4 anyway to get a little extra rest but once I got in here things just started to pop," she said.

"The three doctors, Dr Temple, Dr Dixon and Dr Stewart who were with me in the delivery room were just wonderful as was the nurse, Mrs Vi Woodward, who has had quite an exciting time with all this."

Dr Westover was unavoidably called out of town just before the delivery.

Mrs Woodward who has lived

in the North Peace for 30 years and nursed in the Providence Hospital for the past 10 years has never heard of another set of triplets born here. She said she couldn't even remember any being born in the South Peace.

And the babies? With birth weights of four pounds, nine ounces, four pounds, five ounces and three pounds, two ounces they're thriving and healthy. The hospital expects to keep them until they have gained up to a weight of five and one-half pounds.

1968



THE YOUNGSTERS IN the Providence Hospital have been having a bit of Christmas brought to them recently as Santa made several return trips to the pediatric ward. One such visit was last

Friday afternoon. After he called on the hospital staff party Santa went upstairs to visit the youngsters. The two little boys pictured here are Paul Auger, left and Darren Zalys, right.