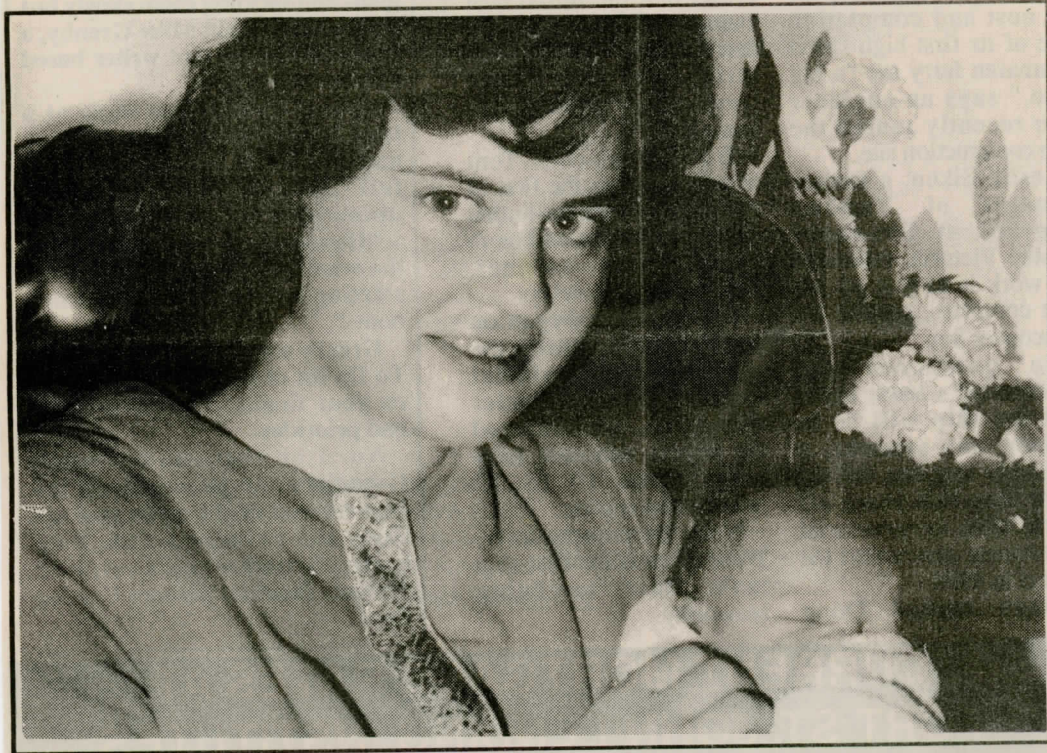


# TimeCapsule

1969



**FIRST BABY** of 1969 was Gary William Bickford, second child of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bickford, who arrived at 6 a.m. New Year's Day at seven pounds, one ounce.

--AHN Photo files

**15 YRS AGO-JAN. 17, 1969**  
 ON JANUARY 7, the Sister of Providence played host to the Providence Hospital Women's Auxiliary at a buffet supper in the hospital. A good number of women turned out to enjoy the dinner and a sing-song after led by Sister Leclerc. A feature of the evening was a display in book form of all the equipment the WA donated over the years to the hospital. Sister Leclerc explained how each piece of equipment worked. Following the dinner, WA President, Mrs Bertha Kirschner thanked the Sisters for their hospitality.

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

**PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL** will be setting up an eye bank in the near future. **APR 21, 1969**



**Sisters host WA dinner**  
**JAN 15, 1969**  
 On January 7 the Sisters of Providence played host to the Providence Hospital Women's Auxiliary at a buffet supper in the hospital. A good number of women turned out to enjoy the dinner and a sing-song after led by Sister Leclerc. A feature of the evening was a display in book form of all the equipment the WA donated over the years to the hospital. Sister Leclerc explained how each piece of equipment worked.  
 Following the dinner, WA president Mrs Bertha Kirschner thanked the Sisters for their hospitality. The regular meeting of the hospital WA will be held on January 20. This will be the nominating meeting.

**JAN 8, 1969**  
**FORT ST JOHN'S** New Year's baby this year was tiny Gary William Bickford, son of Mr and Mrs Bill Bickford, who was born at 6 am January 1. Gary weighed seven pounds, six ounces at birth. The Bickfords, who farm in the Montney area, have lived here for three and a half years, coming from Victoria. They have one other child, a 13-month-old daughter and were the recipients of many prizes offered by local merchants.



1969.

**10 YRS AGO — MAR 19, 1969**

**POISON CONTROL**  
Centre — A poison control centre was established at the Providence Hospital on the afternoon of March 17 with a visit from Dr Anthony Larson, of the provincial health department. The poison control centre, which consists of a metal filing cabinet about two feet long by a foot wide and six inches high contains cards listing over 1,500 products, their degree of toxicity, antidotes and other recommended treatments. With the control centre the hospital staff members have at their fingertips information enabling them to give advice to physicians and others for immediate treatment of poisonings. On discussing the compiling of this information, Dr Larson stated there was no difficulty in procuring information on drugs but when it came to patent medicines and commercial products the manufacturers were reluctant to make known the contents of the products. For this reason the contents of the file are completely confidential to the hospital staff.

**10 YRS AGO — MAY 17, 1969**

**WOMEN OF FORT ST JOHN** are producing babies at a rate well above the national and provincial average, according to annual report of the acting director for the Peace River Health Unit. The higher birth rate reflects the young age group found in this area. While the birthrate in the health unit as a whole and including FSJ was lower than in 1967, the average per 1,000 population was 24.6 as compared to 17.6 nationally and 17 provincially. With total live births in the entire health unit at 1,035 Fort St John's 439 births makes it the most prolific centre of the unit!

SAT., OCT. 25 - Providence Hospital Women's Auxiliary Harvest Bazaar 2-5 p. m., Wine tasting party 8 -10 p. m., Witches Ball 10 p. m. to 1 a. m. Immaculata Auditorium. \$6 per couple.



**TEN YEARS' SERVICE REWARDED** — Last week Mrs Vi Woodward received a pin marking 10 years service on the staff of Providence Hospital in Fort St John. Here making the presentation is Peace River oldtimer Duncan Cran. *Dec 17, 1969*



THESE ATTRACTIVE hand-made articles displayed by Mrs Gay Spicer and Mrs Simone Westover of the Providence Hospital Women's Auxiliary will be sold at a bazaar to be held on October 25. Proceeds from the afternoon bazaar, evening wine-tasting party and dance all to be held in the Immaculata Auditorium will go to the purchase of new equipment for the hospital. *OCT 15, 1969*



1969  
JANUARY

# Dixon to act as hospital rep

JAN 15, 1969

Fort St John's town council held its first regular meeting of 1969 Monday evening with newly-elected Mayor Bill Stark at the head of the table.

At the meeting the town's newest alderman, K W Dixon, a local doctor, was elected as Fort St John's representative on the Peace River Regional Hospital District Board. He will take over his duties as of February 1 at which time the term of ex-mayor, Ralph Pomeroy, on the regional board expires.

Also among the first business of the new year was the appointment of Mayor Stark of his committee heads.

Ald Peter Frankiw was given finance, planning, traffic, street lights and traffic lights; Ald K W Dixon will be in charge of water, sewer, building and boundary expansions as well as the regional district; Ald Mel Clarke is to look after public works, streets, sidewalks and drainage.

Ald Pappy Galbreath will once again take care of recreation, planning (in conjunction with Alderman Frankiw), parks, the cemetery and tourism; Ald Glen Fox will be in charge of garbage and welfare; Ald W Horst has been given the fire department, zoning, civil defence and ambulance service.

Mayor Stark has taken industrial development under his own control.

In announcing his committee appointments he suggested aldermen meet with civic employees involved with their various committees and co-operate in discussing problems.



ALD K W DIXON



ALD MEL CLARKE

## PEACE RIVER REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL FINANCING BY-LAW REFERENDUM No. 5

The Question to be submitted to the owner-electors of the Peace River Regional Hospital District

### ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OF THE PEACE RIVER REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT'S FINANCING BY-LAW NO. 5?

(Note: This By-law authorizes the sum not exceeding \$1,269,852.00 for construction of a hospital at Chetwynd and renovations to Saint Joseph General Hospital at Dawson Creek.)

TAKE NOTICE that the above is a true copy of the proposed question upon which the vote of the owner-electors of the Peace River Regional Hospital District will be taken.

Polls will be established in the following locations:

**January 25, 1969 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., local time:**

POLL	PLACE
CHETWYND	Village Office
CLAYHURST	Elementary School
COAL RIVER	Fireside Inn
DAWSON CREEK	Elks Hall
DEVEREAUX	School
DOE RIVER	School
EAST PINE	Post Office
FLATROCK	School
FORT ST. JOHN	Elks Hall
FORT NELSON	School Board Office
GOODLOW	School
GROUNDBIRCH	Groundbirch Store
HAYS	Residence
HUDSON'S HOPE	Municipal Office
IRVINE DEAN	School
JAMES PAUL	School
KELLY LAKE	School
Mile 18	School
MOBERLY LAKE	School
MONTNEY	School
MUNCHO LAKE	Mile 456 School
NORTH PINE	School
POUCE COUPE	Village Office
PRESPATOU	School
PROGRESS	Residence
ROLLA	School
SOUTH TAYLOR	School
SUMMIT LAKE	Mile 392 School
SUNRISE VALLEY	Sunrise Valley Hall
SUNNYBROOK — FELLERS HEIGHTS	Residence
SUNSET PRAIRIE	Sunset Store





A FROZEN WATER MAIN turned the area around Fort St John's Providence Hospital into a flood control zone this week. The main burst over the

weekend and at press time the hospital was still being fed by an emergency stand-by tank. Portions of the hospital were flooded to a depth of two feet when the main went.

## Hospital uses emergency water supply

*FEB 5, 1969*  
Last Sunday afternoon a water main supplying Providence Hospital in Fort St John broke after apparently freezing.

Sister Leclerc, hospital administrator, stated Monday there was no emergency shortage of water as the hospital was immediately switched over to a 22,000-gallon reserve tank. The tank was kept filled by the Fort St John Volunteer Fire Department.

On Monday morning the break had still not been found, however, it was thought to be somewhere on the hospital grounds.

## Hospital facing \$50,000 law suit

The Fort Nelson General Hospital is being sued by Cloverdale Construction Co Ltd for an alleged \$50,000 breach of contract.

Fort Nelson is a member of the Peace River Regional Hospital District and when the district's board met last week in Fort St John its aid was enlisted in the legal battle.

Representing the northern hospital's board of management at the meeting were

Messrs Al Bumstead and Don Gordon.

The law suit goes back to the pre-regional district days when the hospital was constructed (1964). It apparently arose after the construction company did not show an expected profit on the job. It, in turn, is claiming this was due to a failure by hospital officials to supply adequate water to the site.

The two Fort Nelson spokes-

men expressed displeasure with the way the hospital was built and at one point Mr Gordon said it is "falling apart". He claimed that among other things the hospital floors are sagging. Mr Gordon also stated that a law suit claiming poor workmanship had once been considered against the contractor.

He refuted the construction company's charges regarding the water supply.

*MAR 5, 1969*  
To date the hospital and the contractor have gone through one court case and one arbitration board in an attempt to sort out their differences. Both the court and the board decided in favor of the hospital.

At last week's regional district meeting the delegation was instructed to continue the fight. The district will be supplying the necessary financial backing.

*FEB 12 1969*

MON., FEB. 17 - Providence Hospital WA will hold its annual dinner and membership meeting in the Fort Motor Hotel at 7 p.m.

- JAN 22, 1969*
- TATE CREEK School
  - TAYLOR Municipal Office
  - TRANSPIKE School
  - UPPER CACHE CREEK Bob Johnson residence
  - UPPER PINE School
  - WILLOWBROOK School
  - WONOWON School
  - ATTACHIE School
  - CHARLIE LAKE School
  - BALDONNEL Post Office
  - UPPER HALFWAY L. CALLISON Residence
- A.L. ANDERSON, Returning Officer

## Hospital WA

### new exec

*FEB 12, 1969*  
At the last meeting of the Providence Hospital Women's Auxiliary an election of officers for the coming year was held. Mrs Bertha Kirschener was elected as president for another year. Secretary is Mrs Sandy Hulme; first vice-president, Mrs Gay Spicer; second vice-president, Mrs Diane Brooks and treasurer, Mrs Belle Bremner.

The new officers will be installed at the annual membership banquet to be held on Monday February 17 in the Fort Motor Hotel. Everyone is welcome to attend the banquet which starts at 7 p.m but please confirm attendance by phoning Mrs Gay Spicer at 5-2275.



## Georgina Keddell resigns position

MAR 5, 1969

Mrs JF Keddell was honored, following the February meeting of the board of management of Providence Hospital, with a presentation party in the lounge of the Sisters' residence. The occasion marked her resignation as secretary of the board of the hospital on which she has served since 1957. A bouquet of roses and carnations, a matched set of luggage and a briefcase were the gifts she received from her colleagues. Refreshments were served and an amusing hour was spent recalling old friends and times around the hospital.

Mrs Keddell's replacement on the board will not be announced until the annual meeting.

## Hospital taxes going up

APR 2, 1969

When the Peace River Regional District met Tuesday, March 25, in Dawson Creek it approved a \$58,175 operational budget.

It also went for a \$261,720 budget for the Peace River regional Hospital District. A good portion of this is made up by the first payments on a new Chetwynd Hospital.

Ald Pappy Galbreath, who represented Fort St John at the meeting, states the hospital budget will mean an approximate 1.5 mill increase to Fort St John ratepayers.

He also reported that Chetwynd is hoping to build an arena through the regional district. Only people in the area served by the arena will be taxed for it, Galbreath said, however.

The Chetwynd representation is presently doing a study to determine just what this area will be.

A recommendation, also from the Chetwynd representation, that the regional district take over ambulance service, was sent back for further study.

SAT., APRIL 5 - Providence Hospital bake sale at the Co-Op store at 2 p.m. 1969

## Hospital thanked

APR 16, 1969

Editor,  
Alaska Highway News

I want to thank publicly the Providence Hospital for the wonderful care I've received since stricken with illness several weeks ago. Also a hearty thank-you to all my friends and neighbors for flowers, gifts, cards and visits - and the organizations in which I'm in-

terested who have remembered me in this manner also.

They tell me I am making good progress. This will be at least partly due to the encouragement I've received from the above friends; the excellent nursing and medical care at our local hospital is doing the rest.  
FSJ - ANGHARAD YOUNG  
(Mrs JS)

APRIL 1969



APR 2, 1969

A CHEQUE for \$50 was presented recently to Mrs L Forrest of the pediatrics ward of Providence Hospital by Mrs Jessie Pickell on behalf of the Central Elementary School Junior Red Cross. Sister Leclerc, hospital administrator and a wee patient look on at the presentation of the money which will be used to buy necessary equipment for the ward. The Central Elementary School Junior Red Cross has also spent a sum of over \$70 on a needed operation for a child from this area. Besides their concern locally for sick children the club has sent \$175 to needy children overseas.





FOOD SERVICE is always a most important part of a hospital and here Mrs Edda Chwyl mixes up a batch of cookies for patient consumption.

# Hospital welcomes visitors Sunday

By GLENISE MARLIN

On Sunday, May 11, the Providence Hospital will again open its doors for an annual open house. Residents of this area are invited to visit and tour the hospital under the guidance of staff members. This yearly chance to get to know the inner workings of our hospital has been scheduled for a Sunday afternoon to enable as many as possible to make the visit. So the invitation is out to feel free to visit the hospital anytime from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 11. Refreshments will be served.

Under the smoothly working surface of the hospital are many departments and personnel not normally in contact with the public or even suspected of existing. The Providence Hospital and the Alaska Highway News hope with the pictures and article on this page to bring to you some of the little known aspects of work in the hospital as well as highlight other areas you may already know about.

## PERSONNEL

Staff at the Providence Hospital has increased by 13 people in the past year. In September of 1968, Sister Dechant, director of nursing and head operating-room nurse resigned from her position and was replaced by Mrs K Pain as director of nursing and Miss Judith Barron as head nurse in the operating room.

Staff at the hospital is constantly in training to keep methods and procedures up to date. This is done through in-service training and through institutes attended by the staff. Mrs O Koetsier as in-service co-ordinator orientates new staff with necessary follow-up.

With 3,844 patients being treated in hospital in 1968 the local hospital has an average bed occupancy of 74.6 per cent.

MAY 7, 1969  
with over 9,000 units of lab work produced. However the only staff increase has been one extra person coming in one day per week.

The final X-Ray expansion renovations were made and the first X-Rays with the new equipment were taken on July 1, 1968. The total cost of the new equipment was over \$55,000 and renovations amounted to \$17,000. Over 16,000 X-Ray films were

The efficiency of the physiotherapy department has stimulated the doctors to greater use of the department. Expansion renovations costing \$1,400 enlarged and up-dated the area. Several treatment aids were purchased and the Women's Auxiliary donated a wax bath worth \$345.

## TREATMENT

In the emergency department of the hospital over 7,500 patients were treated in the last 12 months with nearly 2,500 of these treatments consisting of genuine emergencies. Plastic transfer packs for blood donors were introduced and have provided

(Continued on page five)

## DISASTER NURSING

Preparing in the event of a disaster, some staff members attended a civil defence meeting on November 4, 1968. This led to a dry run of a disaster drill in which 15 students from local schools were recruited to act as casualties. A course will be given this year for preparation of simulated casualties and another dry run will probably take place this summer.

## LAB, X-RAY AND PHYSIOTHERAPY

A very busy department of the hospital is the laboratory, serving both hospitalized patients and out-patients. The work-load has increased more than 30 per cent in the past year



# Hospital welcomes

(Continued from page five)

grounds looking lovely.

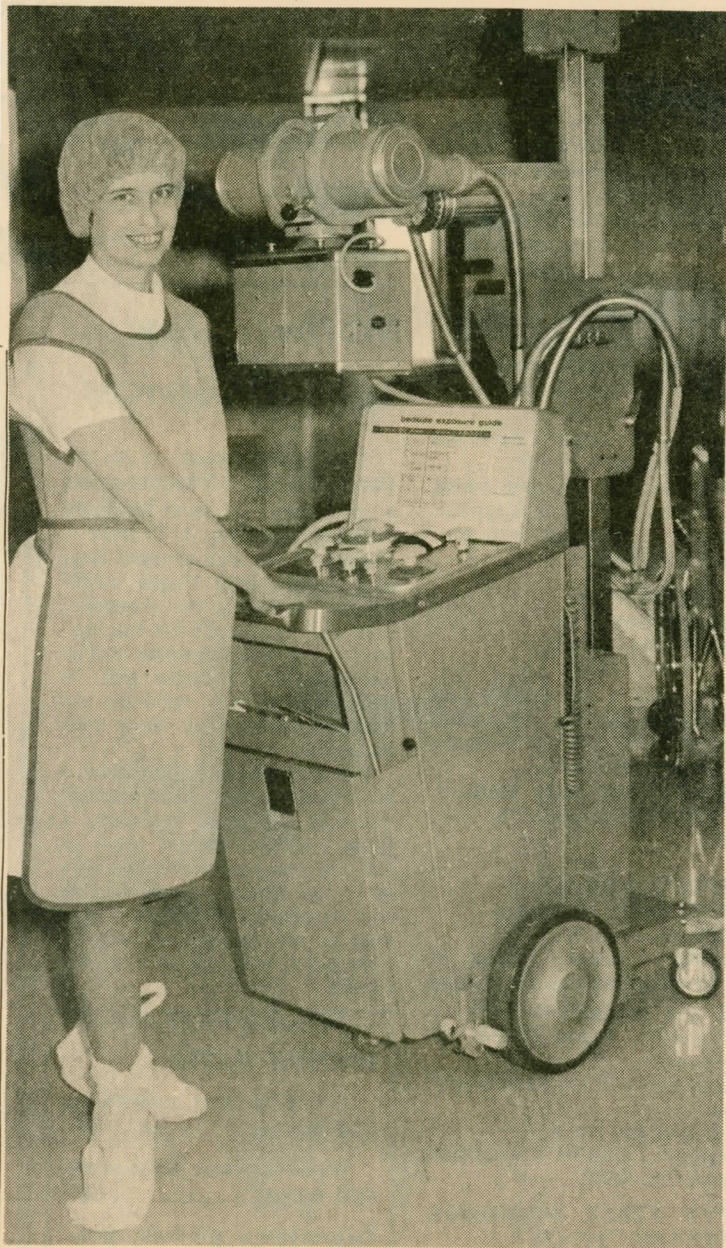
## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The WA, a hard-working group of less than 20 women, raised more than \$2,500 for hospital equipment last year. The money was spent on a Bird respirator, a wax bath and an electro cardiogram machine. Other donations from the WA include a tv for one of the day rooms, gifts for each patient on Christmas Day, plants for the hospital rock garden as well as time spent in bringing a cart of books, magazines and so on

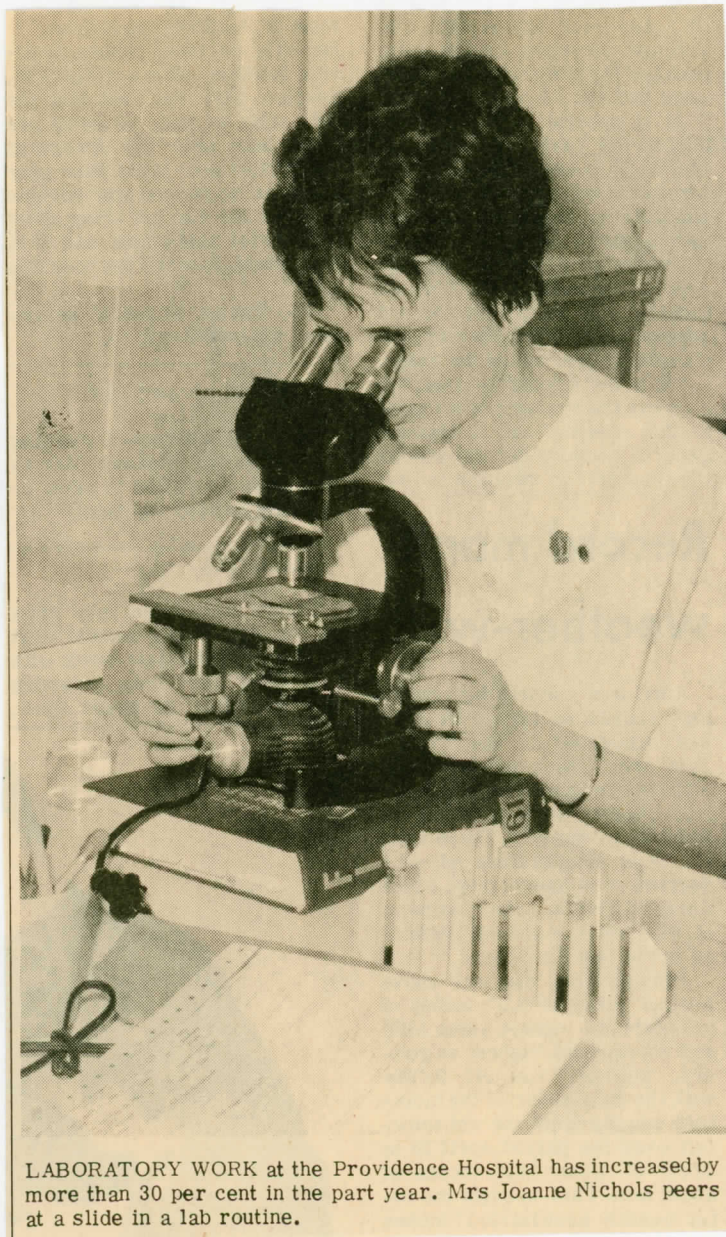
to the patients and providing a shampoo service once a week.

Throughout this article I've referred several times to the administrator. Serving in this capacity is friendly, out-going Sister Leclerc. Though occupying a singular position as head of the hospital she is in constant touch with every department.

This article is only a very brief summary of some of the areas of service in the local hospital. To really find out what it's all about visit the Providence Hospital when it holds open house.



A PART OF the X-Ray service in Providence Hospital is provided by the portable unit seen here with Mrs Eileen Christison.



LABORATORY WORK at the Providence Hospital has increased by more than 30 per cent in the part year. Mrs Joanne Nichols peers at a slide in a lab routine.



# Hospital welcomes

(Continued from page two)

ed very effective. One stretcher was added to the department and the emergency entrance was paved to help upgrade the services.

In the operating room 1,149 surgical operations were performed, the majority of them of a minor nature.

Statistics from the maternity ward indicate that the birth-rate locally is down with 15 fewer babies in 1968 than in 1967. Mrs Vi Woodward, for many years head nurse of the ward resigned that position last November but remained on staff. She was replaced by Mrs E Sherret. One set of twins and one of triplets were born in 1968.

## MEDICAL RECORDS

A department of the hospital

not usually known to patients is the medical records section located in the basement. There, all details, past and present of hospitalization and treatment are kept. A more comprehensive method of coding was adopted in January of 1969 and some thought is being given to micro-filming.

## KEEPING GOING

A hospital is just like a big home or hotel where people must be fed, clothed, warmed and bedded down. Although these duties fall into several departments we have joined them loosely here to tell you of them. Serving meals at the hospital is a big job when one considers that over 97,000 plates passed out of the kitchen last year. The administrator reports that

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS  
FORT ST JOHN, B C, WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1969

SECTION ONE, PAGE FIVE

although food service has improved in quality and efficiency a qualified dietician is still very difficult to come by.

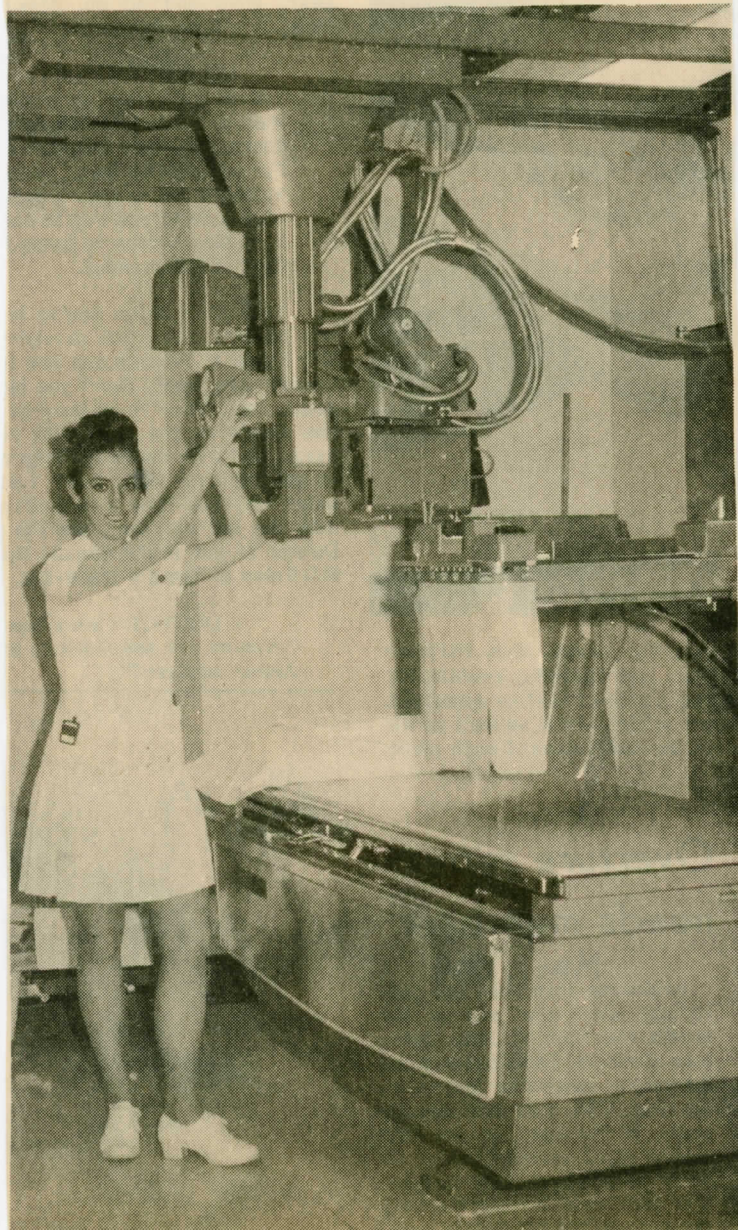
Doing the laundry for all the patients of the hospital as well as doing the uniforms and lab coats is a big job for the five workers involved.

Housekeeping involves all the people necessary to keep the hospital in immaculately clean condition. An extra janitor was added this year especially for extra cleaning such as radia-

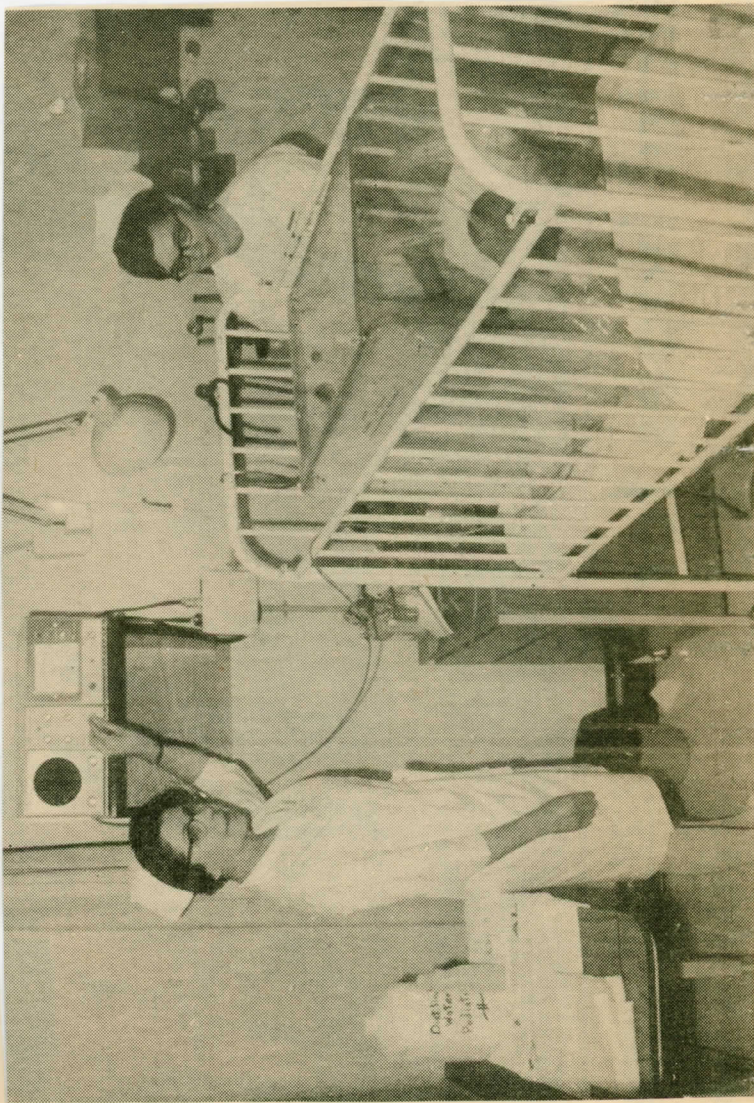
tors, windows, vents, walls and casters. According to a report from the administrator it takes one man and one aid one month to clean all the casters on all the beds in the hospital.

The building and maintenance people are not in direct evidence but they are the fellows who keep the water hot in the taps, keep the building temperature at an even level, apply coats of paint in yearly redecoration jobs as well as keep the exterior

(Continued on page twelve)



THE NEW X-Ray equipment just put into service less than one year ago is shown by its operator, Miss Betty Pope.



NEW IN THE lifesaving equipment at the Providence Hospital is the intensive care unit with

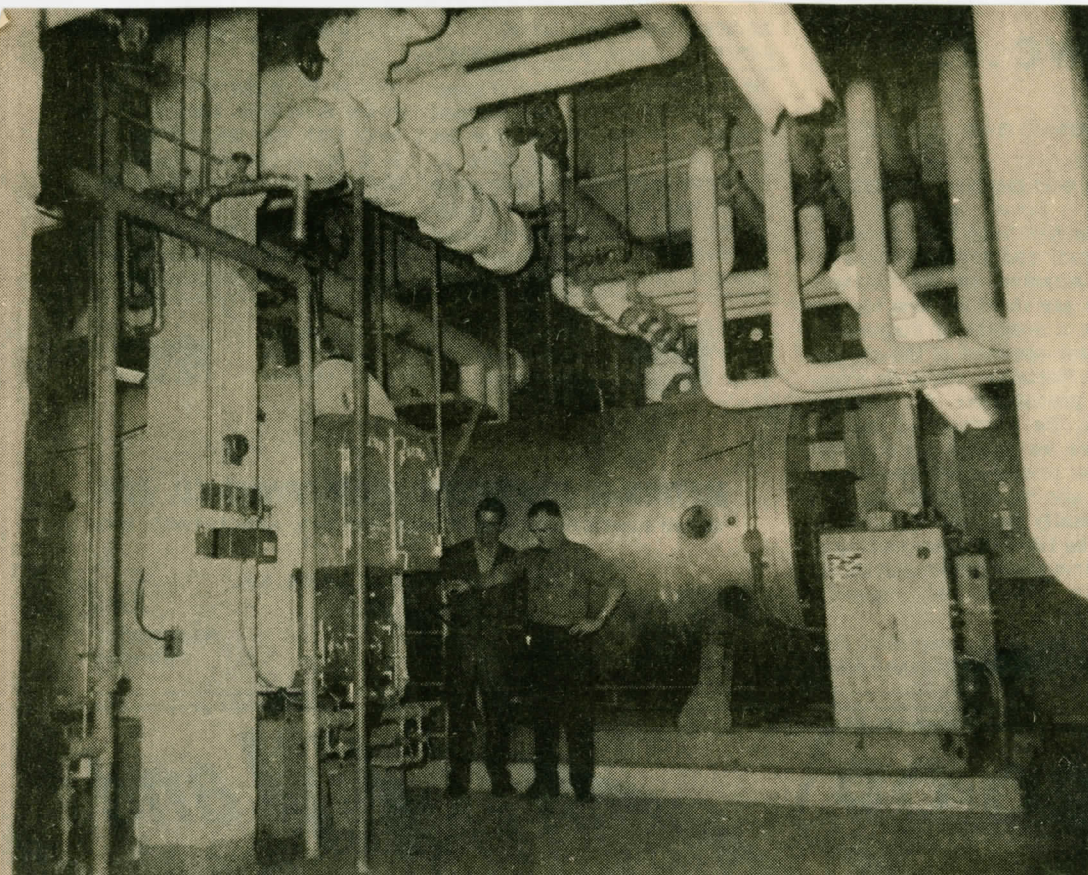
its sophisticated machinery treating an infant while Mrs K Pain and Miss Joanne Kirkpatrick stand by.



1969

# Hospital Notes

MON., SEPT. 15 - Providence Hospital WA meeting at 8 p. m. Discussion of plans for bazaar. 1969



A BUSY HOSPITAL needs plenty of hot water and a reliable source of heat. Supplying it

the powerhouse manned by Roscoe Smith and George Broadhurst.

FORT ST JOHN - Mrs Violet Anguish, Mrs Dorothy Arnold, Nelson Barker, Mrs George Bouffieux, Lillian Branton, Richard Cholette, Mrs Katherin Corcoran, Jacob Drozda, Mrs Jacob Fehr, Lisa Gellings, Preston Jickling, Donald Johnson, Robert McDermott, James McKearney, Danny MacLeod, John Ottee, Lyle Parkhurst, Mrs Thelma Paynter, Rylyn Payou. Cheryl Quintal, Mrs Gary Radcliffe, Mrs Blanche Ralston, Shawn Ramstead, Mrs Calvin Rempel, George Repetowski, Mrs James Rogers, John Scheck, Kevin Scott, William Sheppard, Wendy Smith, Bernard Swanson, Ted Taylor, Mrs Ralph Unger, Terri Lea Unrau, Mrs Cora Ventress, Mrs Keith Walker, Mrs Ervin Wanke, Mrs Janet Williamson, Frank Wilson, Mrs Frank Wilson.

CECIL LAKE - Henry Bueckert, David Peters.

TAYLOR - Paige Comeau, Mrs Frances Mecham.

HUDSON'S HOPE - Mrs Leslie Forry, Vernon Peck.

MONTNEY - John Jungen, Mrs Doreen Krantz.

ROSE PRAIRIE - Marilyn Pouce Coupe.

NORTH PINE - John Tiley. NEWBORNS

Mr and Mrs Gary Radcliffe, boy; Mr and Mrs Ervin Wanke, boy; Mr and Mrs Ralph Unger, boy; Mr and Mrs Leslie Forry, girl; Mr and Mrs Calvin Rempel, girl; Mr and Mrs George Kantz, boy; Mr and Mrs Jacob Fehr, girl.

## Fun fest for hosp funds

SEPT 24, 1969

The hard-working Women's Auxiliary to the Providence Hospital is once more busy raising funds for equipment for the hospital. This year an all-out bang-up affair to end the month of October will raise funds to purchase a Carl Zeiss microscope for the hospital laboratory and a whirlpool for the physiotherapy department.

Beginning at 2 pm on October 25 the WA will hold a harvest bazaar which will last until 5 pm. Then at 8 pm the same day a wine-tasting party will begin at 8 pm and run until 10 pm when the Annual Witches Ball will commence. One big day with three activities to be held in the Immaculata Auditorium. The tickets for the wine-tasting party and the Witches Ball will be \$6 per couple.

At the bazaar will be plant booths, home baking, sewing, novelties, candies and the ever-popular delicatessen.

Every year through bazaars and social events the Hospital WA raises thousands of dollars with which special and expensive equipment is bought for the local hospital. As well the WA sponsors the Candy Strippers whose work in the hospital relieves much professional staff

SAT., OCT. 25 - Providence Hospital Women's Auxiliary Harvest Bazaar 2-5 p. m., Wine Tasting Party 8-10 p. m., Witches' Ball 10 p. m. - 1 a. m. Immaculata Auditorium. \$6 per couple. 1969



THE ABOVE Fort St Johnners were, last Friday, honored for 10 year's employment in the Providence Hospital. They were presented with pins by George Broadhurst, (centre rear of picture) chairman of the board of management of the hospital. Those completing 10 years were.

left to right, Mr K Smith, engineer; Mrs E Neilson, head of the housekeeping and laundry department and Mrs Mary Richter, laundry department. In the back row with Mr Broadhurst is Mrs Thelma Artemenko, who has completed 10 years as a nurse in the hospital. She works in the operating room.