

1970

FORT ST JOHN, BC, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1970



10 YRS AGO — JAN 2, 1970
FIRST BABY born in Fort St John's Providence Hospital in 1970 was Ian Henry Harder, 7 pounds 11 ounces. Ian, who made his appearance, with the assistance of Dr J Kindrachuk, at 3:39 am on New Year's Day is the second son of Mr and Mrs Henry HH Harder of Fort St John. Their first child, Elliott Ross, will celebrate his first birthday on January 13.

FIRST BABY BORN IN FORT ST JOHN's Providence Hospital in 1970 was Ian Henry Harder, 7 lbs 11 oz pictured here with his mother Mrs Kath Harder Ian, who made his appearance, with the

assistance of Dr. J Kindrachuk, at 3.39 am on New Year's day is the second son of Mr and Mrs Henry H Harder of 96th Avenue. Their first child, Elliott Ross, will celebrate his first birthday on January 13.

After 40 years service

Sisters of Providence may leave Fort St. John!

The Order of the Sisters of Providence has intimated to the Peace River Regional Hospital District that the order is desirous of withdrawing its equity in the Providence Hospital, Fort St John, and St Josephs General Hospital, Dawson Creek.

The reason for this request is that it feels that both Fort St John and Dawson Creek are fully established communities no longer requiring the aid of a charitable organization to provide and maintain their hospital services.

The money invested in the two hospitals named could now be put to better use in providing hospital service in parts of the world less fortunate and able to provide it for themselves.

The present position in Fort St John is that the equity in the hospital land and buildings is split three ways with 50 per cent held by the government and 25 per cent each by the Sisters of Providence and the Regional Hospital District. In order to accede to the request of the order, it is necessary for the regional district (as the only authorized money raising body) to purchase the sisters' equity and arrangements for this to be done are now under discussion. Once the sisters are bought out, however, the question arises as to the future administration and management as the present appointed management board will cease to exist with the departure of the Sisters of Providence.

At its meeting January 13 the

Providence Hospital management board considered and discussed at length a letter from the regional district which set forth three possible alternatives for consideration. These were:

(a) The Peace River Regional Hospital District can buy out the equity of the Sisters of Providence and appoint a hospital administrator responsible to it.

(b) The regional district can purchase the hospital and equity as above and then lease the property at one dollar per year to a hospital society to be formed in the North Peace. The society would then be responsible for administration and management.

(c) The regional district can buy the equity and then lease the hospital to a local elected

JAN 21, 1970
board, on which a regional representative would sit, and the elected board would be responsible for the appointment of an administrator.

The letter before the board called for a reply by January 15, but it was generally felt by the members that in view of the intervention of holidays since its receipt there had been insufficient time fully to consider the implications of the suggested alternatives and to obtain information and data from other sources. In the circumstances it was unanimously agreed that a letter be sent to the Regional Hospital District Board asking for a little more time in which to carry out further investigation before a definite recommendation was submitted.

Sad news for Northside

There will be many sad hearts in the Peace Country at the news that the Sisters of Providence will be leaving us in the not too distant future. Their untiring work for the sick and injured will stand as a landmark in the history of the Peace for very many years to come and the gratitude and thanks of those who have been cared for in their hospitals will go with them in whatever part of the world their future work may lie.

Logically the projected take over by the Peace River Regional Hospital District of the sisters' equity in the Providence Hospital is sound. What is much less acceptable is the imbalance in the membership of the Regional Hospital District Board as between the

JAN 21, 1970
North Peace and the South Peace.

As the board is at present constituted the representatives from south of the river have greater voting strength than those from the north, despite the fact that some 65 per cent of the board's revenue comes from the North Peace. The rapid growth of population north of the river is tending to make this uneven balance of payment even larger.

If as now seems likely the Regional Hospital District Board as controller of the money-bags is to be in effect responsible for the maintenance of all hospitals in the area, then it seems that a more equitable system of representation both of population and taxation volume should be arranged.

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The reason is that it is felt the established community no longer requires the aid of a charitable organization to provide and maintain hospital services. JAN 22, 1970 IN
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Financial picture at hospital gloomy

Ald Keith Dixon reporting to town council at its meeting January 19 stated that he had attended two meetings of the Regional District board. He referred in particular to a meeting of the Regional Hospital District board at which the board of directors of Fort St John's Providence Hospital had explained the financial difficulties with which they were faced.

Over the past few years the BCHIS, which is responsible for the operating costs of the hospital, had failed to contribute more than the average daily cost per bed for a 100-bed hospital in the province. Due to the particular circumstances of the Providence Hospital in providing medical services for a vast section of north-eastern BC, the average daily grant per bed is substantially lower than the actual costs incurred here. This has resulted in a deficit on operating costs over a four year period which has now reached a total of over \$100,000.

So far the Royal Bank has carried the hospital overdraft but the present position of

financial stringency has forced the bank to review the situation and ask for positive steps to be taken to hold or reduce the present figure.

It is the intention of the board of directors in conjunction with the Regional Hospital District board to present a petition to the minister of health for assistance in paying off the overdraft and for the grant of a more realistic daily figure for the future.

10 YRS AGO — JAN 16, 1970

AFTER 40 YEARS: The Order of the Sisters of Providence has intimated to the Peace River Regional Hospital District that the Order is desirous of withdrawing its equity in the Providence Hospital, Fort St John and St Joseph's General Hospital, Dawson Creek. The reason for this request is that it feels that both Fort St John and Dawson Creek are fully established communities, no longer requiring the aid of a charitable organization to provide and maintain their hospital services. The money invested in the two hospitals named could now be put to better use in providing hospital service in parts of the world less fortunate and able to provide for themselves.

Hospital women elect officers

The members, guests and friends of the auxiliary to Providence Hospital gathered together the evening of February 16 in the Fort Hotel for their annual dinner meeting and installation of officers.

Approximately 85 women watched as North East regional representative of the auxiliaries division of the BC Hospital Association, Thelma Bell of Prince George, presided over the candlelight ceremony and saw the following slate of officers installed for the coming year: Gay Spicer, president; Simone Westover, first vice-president; Diana Brooks,

second vice-president; Georgina Lee, secretary; and Belle Bremner treasurer. Mrs Bell spoke briefly prior to the ritual and reminded those in attendance that the hospital does not belong to the Sisters of Providence, the board or the Auxiliary but is a community hospital and that they, as volunteers, are working for the community as a whole.

While in Fort St John Mrs Bell was the guest of Mr and Mrs Dan Spicer.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Womens Auxiliary will be held on March 16 at 8 pm in the auxiliary room of the hospital. One of the main topics of the meeting will be the annual hospital ball which is tentatively set for May 23.

MAR 4, 1970



THELMA BELL lights a candle for newly elected president Gay Spicer to signify the light she will bring to many a dark life through her volunteer work with the Providence Hospital Womens Auxiliary.

10 YRS AGO — MAR 25, 1970

CANDYSTRIPERS. Twenty one members of the Candystripers group at the hospital were honored with awards for in-service hours. With parents and friends looking on the girls received caps, stripes and one received a pin from Mrs R Clarke the Hospital Women's Auxiliary supervisor of Candystripers and Mrs K Pain, director of nursing. The girls who received the red and white striped caps for 20 hours of service were Francine Blanchette, Edna Bourgue, Bev Doell, Lyla Doycher, Karen Ellis, Suzane Jardine, Dianne Mapletoft, Judy Oberlin, Thelma Ohland, Lori-Ann Ray, Ruth-Anne Sissau, Cathy Togerson, Joni Wallin, Gail Watson and Bonnie McCabe. Receiving stripes for 50 hours of service were Lyla Doycher, Suzanne Jardine, Dianne Mapletoft, Thelma Ohland and Gail Watson. Suzanne Levac was awarded a pin for 100 hours of service.

St John Candystripers awarded service pins

Wednesday March 25, 21 members of the Candystripers group at the hospital were honored with awards for in-service hours. With parents and friends looking on the girls received caps, stripes and one received a pin from Mrs R Clarke the Hospital Women's Auxiliary supervisor of Candystripers and Mrs K Pain, director of nursing.

The girls who received the red and white striped caps for 20 hours of service were Francine Blanchette, Edna Bourgue, Bev Doell, Lyla Doycher, Karen Ellis, Suzanne Jardine, Dianne Mapletoft, Judy Oberlin, Thelma Ohland, Lori-Ann Ray, Ruth-Anne Sissau, Cathy Torgerson, Joni Wallin, Gail Watson and Bonnie McCabe.

Receiving stripes for 50 hours of service were Lyla Doycher, Suzanne Jardine, Dianne Mapletoft, Thelma Ohland and

Gail Watson. Suzanne Levac was awarded a pin for 100 hours of service.

APR 1, 1970

SAT., APRIL 18 - WA to Providence Hospital will hold a Bake Sale in the Co-Op Store from 2-5 p. m.

APR 15, 1970

MON., APRIL 20 - Regular monthly meeting of WA to Providence Hospital at 8 p. m. in the Auxiliary Room of the hospital.

PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL

FORT ST. JOHN, B.C.

During a recent visit by two Government Representatives from the British Columbia Hospital Insurance Services, the following recommendations were made, to be put into effect as soon as possible.

1. That the \$2.00 Emergency and Outpatient fee be paid on registration.
2. That a cash deposit of \$10.00 be charged to all patients being admitted.

These steps are being taken in an effort to meet our operating expenses.

Sister C. Leclerc
Administrator

APR 8, 1970



CHATTING WITH MRS MARGARET NEYLAN, (right) associate professor UBC, director of continuing nursing education at a luncheon at the Scott Motor Hotel, Friday April 17 are Miss Marion Hancock (left) vice-president and Mrs Phyllis Wright (centre) president of the North Peace Chapter

APR 22, 1970 — of Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia. Following the luncheon Mrs Neylan spoke to members of the chapter and hospital personnel at the assembly hall of Providence Hospital on the management of the psychiatric patient.

Frontier hospital at Pouce Coupe

By HAROLD FRYER

Maybe that was one of the best features of the little eight-bed Red Cross Hospital (25 beds by 1933) in Pouce Coupe in those early days. It was certainly never cluttered up with malingerers and hypochondriacs. Those pioneer people were too grateful for having a hospital to ever abuse its services by seeking admittance for anything minor that could be treated at home. Besides, when a trip to the hospital might take several days and involve a stint of horseback riding, a jaunt on foot, a jolting ride in a horse-drawn democrat or wagon, a drift downriver on a raft, boat or canoe, a few chugging miles in a gasoline-powered flivver — or possibly a combination of all or several of these — then maybe a week or a month's stay at the hospital before the trip back home, you can bet that only those really in need of treatment went.

Built in 1921, the little outpost hospital was the only one serving residents of the Peace River Block on either side of the river for many years. Ida S Crook, an Australian lady with a heart as big as the country she served, was the matron for a dozen years. Early Peace settler Mrs Esme Tuck praised Miss Crook's work in a forward to an article written by Miss Crook which appears in the Peace River Chronicles published in 1964 by Prescott Publishing of Vancouver. She wrote: "... she devoted herself to the welfare of the whole district and gave untiring and unstinted service and friendship ... Ida Crook made the hospital a real home to us who came in from our homesteads."

According to Miss Crook's article, not everyone was initially appreciative of the TLC (tender loving care) administered at the outpost hospital. For instance there was this decidedly unsophisticated old fellow who after being admitted, bathed and issued with hospital pajamas incredulously exclaimed: "Dammit woman, if there's a fire, how am I going to get out in these bloomers? I want my overalls!" What better way to keep the peace than to have the grimy overalls laundered and pressed and allow the old fellow to wear them night and day as was obviously his custom? As it turned out he wasn't totally unappreciative of the little extras the hospital offered and showed his pleasure in his

by canoe. From there she was taken another ten miles by democrat, but not before one of the rivermen walked the ten miles to fetch the owner of the democrat and his wife. She travelled the final 14 miles in the comparative luxury of a motor car, arriving at the

hospital at five in the morning after nearly 17 hours on the trail. It is reassuring to learn she not only survived the ordeal but produced a healthy set of twins four days after her arrival.

North Peace pioneers finally

MAY 13, 1970
got a hospital of their own in the early 1930s. Until then the little Red Cross Hospital in Pouce Coupe, or the treatment given there, often meant the difference between living and dying. But of course, first you had to survive the journey in getting there.

unique way by saying: "If my old Step-Mammie was alive she'd say, 'Dammit but them women are good ter you.'"

Miss Crook's wonderful sense of humor again bubbled over when she wrote about a man named Treadwell, who cut his foot severely while trapping. From his trapline away up on the Pine River he walked all one day, then rode horseback 70 miles before reaching help. "I was plum scairt I'd never get where there was anyone, the bleeding was something fierce," he told them at the hospital. Miss Crook was pleased to report they saved his foot even though the first thing his Indian wife did for him when he arrived home was to apply a cow manure poultice. Sturdy stuff those early pioneers.

Then there was the young North Peace mother who was seriously ill and in need of medical attention. She travelled the first 12 of her nearly 70-mile journey on a bed prepared for her on the floor of a democrat. At the Peace River, her husband not being much of a boatman, surrendered her to the care of two rivermen, who took her 30 miles downstream

Hudson's Hope
Red Cross Outpost

10 YRS AGO — AUG 25, 1970

LIQUID HISTORY. The river swirls in the canyon below. The former Red Cross Outpost Hospital looks down on liquid history - the life essence of the Peace Country's early days. Alexander Mackenzie travelled these waters. So did Butler and Simpson and Twelve-Foot Davis and a host of other traders, adventurers and explorers who used the Peace River as a pathway. The renowned D A Thomas and other steamboats plied the waters that flow east of the canyon to ports hundreds of miles downstream. But now the pace of river history has slackened. No explorers or traders need its swift flowing waters. No steamboats journey between Peace ports. Modern highways have shorn the river of its important role and the building of the mighty dam at Portage Mountain has switched emphasis from travel to electric power. Reservoir for river history and indeed for knowledge of many kinds is the old Red Cross Hospital which, having served the sick and ailing for many years, is now a public library serving the community in a rather different role. Library history in Hudson's Hope goes back to 1948 and perhaps farther to the days when Alwin Holland and Vesta Gething and "Auntie Mac" McFarlane successively looked after small collections of books supplied by the Public Library Commission in Dawson Creek. Mrs Bill Johnson took over the books in the 1960's and never really let them go. The library at Hudson's Hope is unique amongst others in the Peace area. It has the fact of

history in the river-canyon below.

MAY 20, 1970



MON., MAY 18 - Meeting of Providence Hospital W.A. in Auxiliary Room of hospital at 8 p.m. 1970
 SAT., MAY 23 - 4th Annual Hospital Ball "A Nite in the Orient", 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. in Immaculata Auditorium. Dress formal or semi. Tickets \$5 each from any W.A. member or by phoning 785-6246.

FULLY PREPARED FOR THE Hospital Women's Auxiliary annual spring dance are Mrs Bertha Kirschner and Margaret Spicer. The theme of the dance is a night in the Orient and decor will have a definite

Eastern flavor. Food served at the midnight supper will be Oriental. So sew yourself a kimono and go off for an intriguing Oriental adventure on Saturday, May 23 in the Immaculata Auditorium.

10 YRS AGO — JUN 11, 1970
GROUP DONATES. Members of the Bert Bowes Junior Secondary School Red Cross donated \$240 to three separate projects this year. They contributed \$90 to the Providence Hospital which went toward a blood pressure apparatus (sphymanometer) to be used in patient care. Another \$100 will go toward assistance to young patients in the Vancouver Children's Hospital. The remaining \$50 will go toward curing two lepers somewhere in the world. The motto of the local group is "Join the Red Cross and help others". The Red Cross Youth is a worldwide student youth movement. Its aims are: (1) To promote better health; (2) Service to others; (3) Good citizenship and international understanding. In the secondary schools the Red Cross is primarily a service club which encourages active participation in the social welfare of the local community, the nation and the world.

SUN., JUNE 21 - Meeting of Providence Hospital W.A. in Auxiliary Room of hospital at 8 p.m. JUN 3, 1970



BERTHA KIRSCHNER and Margaret Spicer beat the drums, or should we say light the lanterns, for A night in the Orient, special money-raising event for the Hospital Women's Auxiliary on May 23, 1970.

— AHN Photo files

St John hospital accredited by council

The Providence Hospital in Fort St John announced this week that it has been accredited by the Council on Hospital Accreditation.

To insure that hospitals are properly operated in the interest of the patient, the council has set certain standards by which hospitals can be evaluated.

During the course of the survey visit, every department was examined to see what level of care is given. The excellence toward which the board, administration and the staff are striving in the performance of their daily tasks is reflected in the content of the minutes, committee work and general organization.

Once all books have been examined, departments visited and pertinent questions answered at every level, the report was written and sent to be examined and approved by council on accreditation.

There have been a few recommendations, such as an unannounced rehearsal of the communication portion of the

disaster plan as was held on May 29, be implemented in order to facilitate this portion of the plan in an actual disaster. There were other similar recommendations that have been implemented to date for the most part.

There were many commendations. Special mention was made of nursing, medical staff work, the board of management and medical staff concerted efforts and the generally excellent organization and management

of the hospital. Mention was made of the excellent organization and operation of the medical records. The medical staff is commended on its generally excellent organization and very excellent attention to committee work, especially in the areas of medical audit and review, analysis and evaluation of patient care.

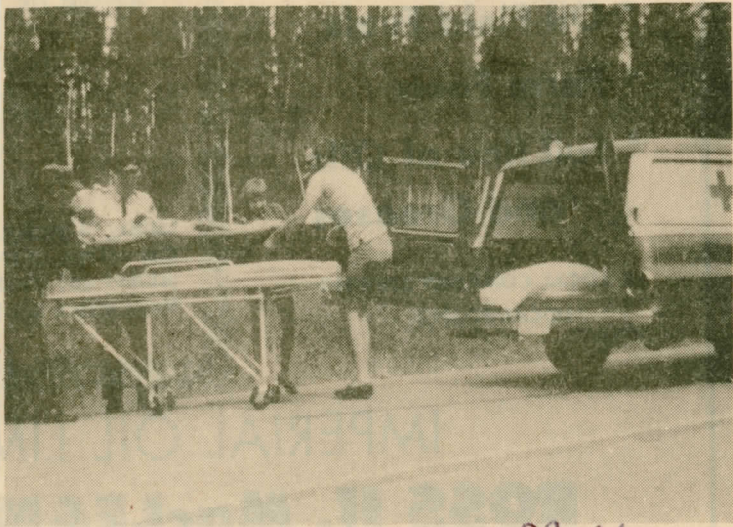
The board members and administration of the hospital would like to thank all these people who have made these comments well justified. Special mention to the women's auxiliary who provide these little extras.



JUN 3, 1970

THE FOUR YOUNG GIRLS WHO appear in this photo with patients of the Providence Hospital Children's Ward presented a play to their neighbors by which they raised funds to buy toys for

the children's ward. The four enterprising Brownies are left to right Darla Lynn Jury, Penny Schauwecker, Danita Lorenscheit and Barbara Farris.



JUL 29, 1970

ERNIE CARRIERE gets help to load injured driver into the ambulance. The driver sustained head injuries and was taken to Fort St John hospital. (photo by Kim Teotonio of Toronto)

Razor blade patient is alive & well

HOSPITAL

AUG 12, 1970



GORDON STOCK

In our recent feature on Dr Garnet Kearney, readers will recall the dramatic incident when he gave instructions to Jack Baker at Watson Lake over the wireless on how to operate on a young man who was dying of a brain cyst.

Jack used a razor blade!

The young man was Gordon Stock who later went on to join CP Air and is now stationed in Vancouver. As his features indicate, Gordon survived the tricky operation very well and we are indebted to Reid Moir of CP Air for his picture.

1970 - NOISE POLLUTION from heavy traffic in hospital area has Sister Leduc appearing before council to request a "Hospital Zone - Quiet" sign. Request referred to province.

10 YRS AGO — AUG 15, 1970

NOISE POLLUTION. Ald Keith Dixon reported to town council that the administrator of the Providence Hospital, Sister C LeClerc, has drawn attention to the fact that patients had registered complaints about the noise of traffic past the hospital. This was particularly noticeable at night and Sister LeClerc had applied for the support of the council in a request that "Hospital Zone - Quiet" sign be erected in an effort to improve conditions. Council members were in sympathy with the request and acknowledged that traffic noise was a problem in the hospital. They recommended that the hospital administrator be advised to approach the highways department and formally to request that the necessary signs be erected.

Plan calls for hospital expansion

AUG 5, 1970

The Peace River Regional Hospital District has received a draft of a hospital development plan, which deals with the development of hospital services in the region to 1976. The plan, which is not yet complete, was received by the board at its meeting of July 28, and will be the subject of discussions between a committee of the regional hospital board and the hospital boards in the region.

The plan outlines the hospital expansion required to meet the hospital facility needs of the region to 1976. It is based on projections made by the BC Hospital Insurance Service and surveys made by the region's hospital advisory committee and the psychiatric section of the BC Medical Association.

The purpose of the discussion with the hospitals is to explain the contents of the plan, and to clarify and amplify its contents. When the discussions are complete it will be re-drafted and submitted to the regional hospital board for approval.

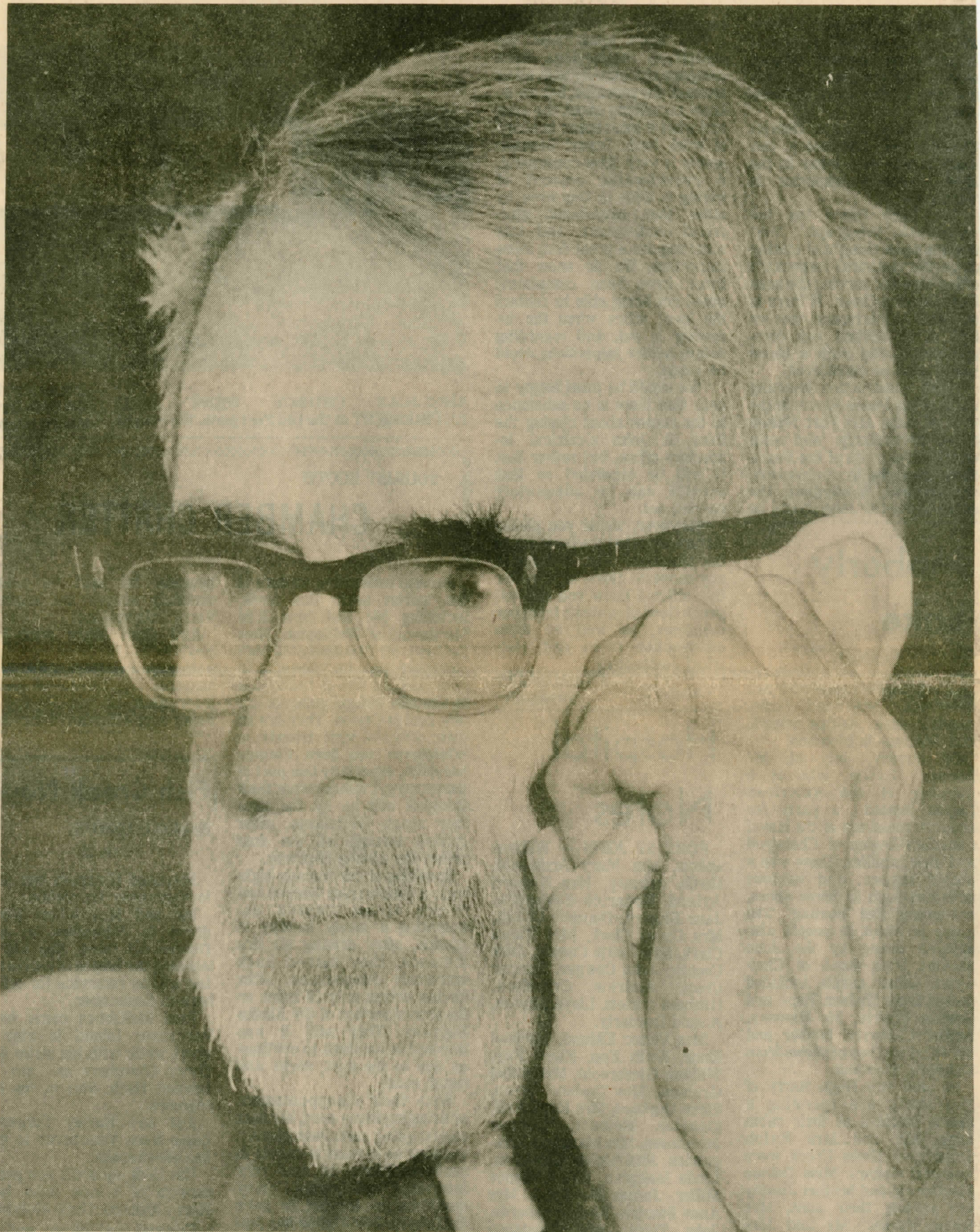
It is the intention of the regional hospital board to

submit the plan to the BC Hospital Insurance Service in conjunction with hospital boards, together with a request for approval-in-principle. Once the approval of the hospital insurance service is obtained the development of more concrete plans can proceed, and cost estimates can be made. To date there has been no estimate of the cost of the plan, as such estimates require architectural planning which cannot be carried out until the plan is approved in principle. When cost estimates are available the board will request authority to place a referendum before the owner-electors of the regional district to obtain their permission to borrow the funds required to execute the plan.

Details of the plan will be forthcoming when the plan is submitted to the board for approval in late September. However, it is known that the plan provides for expansion of facilities at Saint Joseph General Hospital, Dawson Creek, Providence Hospital, Fort St John and Fort Nelson General Hospital.



MANY FOLKS had their first cup of Fort St John coffee in this building under the genial eye of Mark Wah. The upper storey has housed offices of such as Dr Garnet Kerney and the dentist of his time. Now an old style of wrecking has been applied to this the oldest building in town as Lee Smith (inset) is tearing it apart piece by piece to build a house in Grandhaven. Bits of local memories move with the old cafe as it leaves its site.



THIS WEEK WE SALUTE our old friend Garnet Harvey Kearney, long time country doctor who came to the Peace in 1935. Doctor

Kearney's story is written by Cora Ventress and appears inside this section.

Sister Leclerc to leave Peace next month

Residents throughout the North Peace will have learned with regret of the impending departure from Fort St John of the Providence Hospital administrator, Sister Cecile Leclerc.

Sister Leclerc, a native of Saskatchewan, first came to Fort St John in February, 1964, as director of nursing at the hospital. Three years later she took over the administrative post from Sister Anne Emily at the time when control of the hospital was passing from the Hospital Improvement District to the Regional Hospital Board.

This was Sister Leclerc's first administrative job and the hospital board of management, would like to place on record their appreciation of her work and the many hours over and above the call of duty which she has spent with them in reviewing hospital finances.

Chairman George Broadhurst has stated that the board could not have functioned through the difficult transition period without the full co-operation of Sister Leclerc and all the other Sisters of Providence. During her term of office the administrative work has been continually increasing in volume and complexity and the board of management are most grateful for her services.

Sister Leclerc expects to leave early in October for Midnapore, near Calgary, where she will take up duties as director of nursing at the 125 bed Father Lacombe Nursing

Home. The good wishes of the North Peace will go with her.

In the meantime Sister Anee Emily (now known by her own name Josephine Mainka) has returned to the Providence Hospital as overall hospital supervisor after having obtained her baccalaureate in nursing from Seattle University. Another member of the Order who will be joining the hospital staff in a few days time is Sister Pauline Kruchten, who has specialized in operating theatre work and the nursing of intensive care patients.

The eventual takeover of the hospital from the Sisters of Providence and their withdrawal to other fields is still the subject of negotiation. The Order feels that their work in Fort St John has been achieved and that its funds are required to open more hospital establishments in Argentina. The possibility of extending the operations of the Sisters of Providence to Africa is also under consideration.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1970

BCHIS gives nod to hospital expansion

Representatives of the Peace River Regional Hospital district and the hospitals in the region met with the minister of health services and hospital insurance October 3 to discuss the regional hospital development plan.

Following the meeting with the minister, the delegation met with the senior members of the hospital insurance service staff.

It was agreed that every attempt would be made to develop an estimate of the cost

^{Oct 14, 1970} of the program. It is hoped that the estimate will be available so that a referendum can be held on December 12 at the same time as the civic election.

The development plan was generally well received by the hospital insurance service and it was agreed that it could be used as a basis for the development of the referendum. A few minor points remain to be resolved and it is believed that this can be done within the next

few weeks.

The plan provides for the provision of additional extended care facilities, the provision of diagnostic equipment and the expansion of hospital facilities throughout the region, to meet the need anticipated by 1976.

Hospital development plan adopted

At their meeting of September 29, the board of the Peace River regional hospital district adopted a plan which provides for the expansion of hospital facilities in the region to meet the region's projected 1976 needs. The plan has been approved by the boards of all the hospitals in the region and will be submitted to the provincial government for its approval. A delegation consisting of representatives of the regional hospital board, Fort Nelson General Hospital, Providence Hospital, Saint Joseph General Hospital, Pouce Coupe Community Hospital and Chetwynd and District Hospital will meet with the minister of health services and hospital insurance and his officials in the near future to explain the plan and ask for approval in principle.

The minister's approval in principle is required before preliminary planning for the proposed projects can be undertaken. An estimate of the cost of the plan cannot be made until the preliminary planning is completed. When cost estimates are available a

construction program will be prepared and submitted to the region's owner-electors for approval.

The plan calls for:

Increasing Saint Joseph General Hospital from 100 beds to 151 beds, by the addition of 25 adult medical and surgical, pediatric and maternity beds, 16 activation-rehabilitation beds and 10 psychiatric beds.

Increasing Providence Hospital from 100 beds to 150 beds, by the addition of 24 adult medical and surgical, pediatric, and maternity beds, 16 activation-rehabilitation beds and 10 psychiatric beds.

Increasing Fort Nelson General Hospital from 33 beds to a possible 60 beds, and construction of a 12 bed nurses residence.

Converting the existing 24 acute beds at Pouce Coupe Community Hospital to extended care beds, thus making Pouce Coupe Community Hospital an extended care hospital.

Providing a child psychiatric ward having from five to 10 beds at either Providence or Saint Joseph General Hospital.

^{Oct 7, 1970} Generally expanding existing service areas and outpatient and day care facilities at Fort Nelson General, Providence and Saint Joseph General Hospitals, as well as expanding certain facilities which are of a regional nature.

Certain minor projects at all hospitals in the region which are required to complete facilities previously left unfinished or to update facilities to meet a new role.

SAT., OCT. 24 - Hospital WA Fall Tea and Bazaar and Halloween Hoedown in Immaculata Hall.

OCT. 17, 1970

December hospital referendum mooted

Oct 21, 1970

The Peace River Regional Hospital district, which has commenced discussions with the minister of health regarding a regional hospital development plan, has announced that the plan is intended to provide the hospital facilities which will be required in 1976. The plan, which was made public on September 29, provides for the expansion of hospitals at Fort St John, Dawson Creek and Fort Nelson, the conversion of Pouce Coupe Community Hospital to an extended care hospital and the provision of diagnostic and treatment facilities throughout the region. It is hoped that it will be possible to place a referendum on December 12. Whether this will be possible depends on the early preparation of cost estimates. This work is currently underway.

Therefore, the entire amount authorized will not be borrowed at once but over the six to eight year period.

While the referendum will authorize the board to borrow money, this is not the only approval required. The approval of the minister of health services and hospital insurance must be obtained before the board can authorize the hospitals to proceed with preliminary planning, working plans, calls for tenders and construction.

The property taxpayers in the regional district will not have to pay the interest and principal payments for the entire amount borrowed. The provincial government will make a grant for at least 60 per cent of the principal and interest payments. In addition, the provincial government will make a grant equal to one-third of the cost of moveable equipment.

Only owner electors will be eligible to vote on the referendum. A 60 per cent yes vote is required for approval.

The referendum will authorize the board to borrow money over the life of the program which will be from six to eight years. The money will be borrowed as the execution of the program proceeds.

Farmers may oppose hospital

Nov 4, 1970

"I am afraid the farmers will oppose the upcoming hospital referendum on the same position as they did the school referendum," said Alvin Pierce, regional co-ordinator of the NFU B C region.

Pierce was speaking to an Alaska Highway News reporter at the second annual NFU

Peace River district convention held in Fort St John Elks' hall October 30.

Farmers will oppose the hospital referendum on the grounds that all people should pay instead of a select few. The property owners are paying more than their fair share and are being taxed unfairly, he stated.

The people of the Peace River district should make a solid effort in asking for larger grants due to the oil, dam and mining exploration taking place in the area to help defray the costs of schools and hospitals, Pierce suggested.

Verne Leahy, district director of the NFU and convention chairman said, "More information will be needed before we make a judgment on whether or not to oppose the hospital referendum."

He said, "The decision will also depend on the type of referendum promoted."

Six resolutions were presented to the 60 delegates and voted upon. One of the resolutions is of particular interest and is as follows:

Whereas, schools and hospitals provide services and facilities that are used by all in our society regardless of whether or not they own real estate.

And whereas, the major source of funds for these services comes from the taxation of real estate which places an unfair tax burden on the owners of real estate.

Therefore, be it resolved that all funds for the construction and operation of schools, hospitals and other such universal services provided to the public, come from the public by the way of an additional provincial income tax or sales tax. And be it further resolved that those taxes levied against real estate property whether it be agricultural, urban or industrial should be directly related to those services provided to it by either provincial or municipal governments.

The resolution was carried. Local and district reports were presented to the delegates and an election of officers took place.

5 YRS AGO — OCT 31, 1974

MEMORIAL FUND: A special meeting was held in the board room of the FSJ General Hospital to finalize the placement of money collected from the Fern Nield Memorial fund. It had been decided after much discussion with interested people, relatives and friends of Fern that this money could best be put to use in the form of a Scholarship to be available to students entering Post Secondary Education in the Health Sciences. The purpose of the meeting held was to set up Criteria for this Bursary. The following criteria was laid down; (1) The applicant must be a graduate from a High School in Fort St John, BC. (2) Scholastic standing is not necessarily of prime importance. (3) Applications are to be made in writing to the awards Committee of the High school by the end of May. (4) Applications may be made within two years of graduation from Fort St John High school and in this case the applications would go to the Bursary Committee. (5) The applicants must present proof of application or acceptance at a Post Secondary Institution. (6) Applicants may be called for interview by members of the Bursary Committee. (7) The Bursary Committee will be comprised of Mr Lorne Welsh, Mrs Aileen Klein and Mrs Ella Fraser, RN. (8) The amount of the Bursary will be a minimum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) to be paid to the register of the Institution to which the student is accepted. Because Fern Nield loved the North Peace Country so much it would be appreciated by all concerned if the recipient would plan to return to this area to work for a period of time. However, this is not a requirement of the criteria.

MON., NOV. 16 - Hospital WA meeting in Providence Hospital auxiliary room at 8 p. m. Bring knitting needles, wool, material, etc. to help in physiotherapy department.

Hospital Nov. 15, 1970

A desirable level of occupancy for a 100-bed hospital such as ours is 80 in-patients. Since Oct. 1 the in-patient level at Fort St. John's Providence Hospital has reached as high as 99 in-patients.

It must be remembered that in addition to the in-patients, there are a considerable number of out-patients and emergency patients each day, all requiring the use of the support services.

On one occasion last month there were 22 patients in the 20-bed maternity ward. No, there was no standing — the labor room beds temporarily became ward beds.

When occupancy levels reach this high, it brings a number of factors to light which indicate our hospital usage is outgrowing our facilities. Have you tried to find a place to park in the parking lot during the peak period of visiting hours lately?

The same kind of problem could become a reality inside the doors. Indeed, recently, adults have had to be placed in the children's ward and extra adults' beds were placed in a patients' day room.

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Regional hospital expansion detailed

NOV 25, 1970

In order that all readers may be familiar with the purpose of the upcoming hospital expansion referendum December 12, we give below in detail the overall plan for expansion in the Peace River-Liard regional hospital district.

The plan is based upon projections of hospital care needs in 1976. It is intended that it will be implemented in stages, with reviews of needs and projects at intermediate stages in the planning period. There is inbuilt flexibility so that the development program can be adjusted to reflect changes in the pattern or rate of population growth if and when such changes occur.

The plan provides for:

- increasing Providence hospital from 100 beds to 150 beds, by the addition of 24 adult medical and surgical, pediatric and maternity beds, 16 activation-rehabilitation beds, and 10 psychiatric beds;
- increasing Saint Joseph General hospital from 100 beds to 151 beds, by the addition of 25 adult medical and surgical, pediatric and maternity beds, 16 activation-rehabilitation beds and 10 psychiatric beds;
- increasing Fort Nelson General hospital from 33 beds to a possible 60 beds, and construction of a 12 bed nurses residence;

- certain minor projects at all hospitals in the region which are required to complete facilities previously left unfinished or to update facilities to meet a new role.

As previously stated, the anticipated cost over the expansion period is \$7 million, of which 60 per cent will be provided from provincial funds. In addition the referendum will

ask consent of the electorate to borrow an additional \$825,000 with which to purchase the equity of the Sisters of Providence in both Providence and St Joseph's hospitals.

converting the existing 24 acute beds at Pouce Coupe Community hospital to extended care beds, thus making it an extended care hospital; providing a child psychiatric ward having from 5 to 10 beds at either Providence or Saint Joseph General hospital; generally expanding existing service areas and outpatient and day care facilities at Fort Nelson General, Providence and Saint Joseph General hospitals, as well as expanding certain facilities which are of a regional nature.



WE'RE GETTING SO overcrowded we've decided to try some group therapy.

Dixon details hospital

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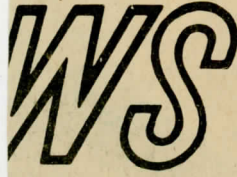
ALASKA HIGHWAY

Vol XX XI No 33 Second Class Mail Registration No. 0162

FORT ST JOHN, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1970

32 Pages, \$6 P.

Peace



er Year, 15 Cents Per Copy

expansion

"It takes from four to six years from the time of conception before new hospital facilities can be completed", says Dr Keith Dixon, commenting on the hospital referendum which goes to the owner-electors of the Peace River-Liard regional district on December 12.

Dr Dixon, who specializes in obstetrics and gynaecology, is a Fort St John alderman and town council representative to the Regional Board. He said the Regional Board started work on a plan for expansion of hospital facilities in 1968. The plan was presented to the provincial government in October 1970 and the district was given permission to hold a referendum, in conjunction with municipal elections on December 12.

The plan covers requirements for the next seven to 10 years. It provides for additional hospital beds and facilities to all hospitals in the Peace River and Fort Nelson areas. "We took the plan to Victoria", continued Dr Dixon, "and health department officials congratulated the board on our conception of our needs for the 70s. I think the completeness of our plan went a long way toward having it accepted. This is what the various hospitals wanted and this is what they'll get, if the taxpayers approve and projected growth patterns materialize". He emphasized that the government officials recognized that a lot of work had been done and that the district was speaking with one voice.

"We had a survey done on the need for psychiatric services," he went on, "and this was carried out by the psychiatric section of the B C branch of the Canadian Medical association. Our outpatient and emergency facilities are crowded. Providence Hospital is operating at or above accepted capacity at the moment, and has been for the past seven weeks." When asked if this meant that some prospective patients had to be refused admittance, Dr Dixon said that speaking for himself, he is usually able to discharge a patient temporarily to make room for a more urgent case. He said there were often beds in the halls or rooms designed for other uses.

As far as diagnostic facilities are concerned, Providence Hospital needs increased

laboratory and radiology services. Both space and equipment are needed so that additional types of functions can be performed. Dr Dixon mentioned radio-isotope services, useful in diagnosing thyroid, blood and kidney diseases. "At present we have to send a blood sample out to Edmonton or Vancouver and sometimes the patient," he said. Another service needed is vascular radiology. Equipment can be provided to take a rapid series of pictures to establish blood circulation to various organs. This will disclose the location of blood clots in vessels supplying the brain and kidney and liver functions. This results in faster determination of the site, faster treatment and operability. With the proper diagnostic equipment, patients could be kept here instead of being sent to Edmonton or Vancouver for treatment.

Dr Dixon said that although Providence Hospital is comparatively new and at the time it was completed it was the most modern hospital in the province, the demands which will be made on the facilities in the near future made expansion plans very necessary. He said that when we take the growing population into account, we have reached a point where we may be in trouble even before proposed expansion can take place. "In case anyone thinks we are handing the regional board a blank cheque by approving this referendum, we still have to get the minister's approval on each individual project. We are not empire building. We are just doing our job in trying to ensure that we get a headstart. The provincial government is not in the habit of handing out money where the need does not exist. It sometimes seems our growth in this area is seen more vividly by outsiders than by residents." He went on to say, "I would be shirking my duty, both as a doctor and as a member of the community, if I did not urge the voters to approve this referendum".

If the referendum is approved, Providence Hospital can look for more adult medical and surgical beds, pediatric and maternity beds, activation-rehabilitation and psychiatric care, expanded service areas, outpatient and day care facilities, as well as additional diagnostic equipment and facilities.

Hospital News

DEC 2, 1970

A sour note crept into the scene at Providence hospital last week. It appears that instances have occurred of theft or mistaken identity of winter footwear left in the racks at the entrance to the hospital. To prevent this happening, and at the same time keep our hospital clean and sanitary, it is suggested that visitors bring a plastic bag in their purse or pocket. They can then, if they wish, take their footwear with them without getting mud or water on the floors.

Occupancy continued high again last week and kept the staff on the run. Seven babies were born, 267 outpatients received treatment, 67 inpatients were admitted and 95 patients were discharged. 172 persons were treated in the emergency department.

The physiotherapy department is a very active component of our hospital. Last week, close to 250 treatments were administered to patients by the staff of two.

The intensive care unit continues to justify its existence with continuous occupancy by patients requiring its special care.

Where to vote

DEC 9, 1970

Property owners in the Peace River-Liard Regional Hospital District will go to the polls on December 12 to vote on the Regional Hospital District's \$7,825,000 referendum. To vote a person must be 19 years of age or older, be a Canadian citizen or other British Subject, and be an owner of property.

Polls will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the following locations: Airport Elementary School, Attachie Elementary School, Charlie Lake Elementary School, Clearview Elementary School, Grandhaven Elementary School, Mile 18 Elementary School, Montney Elementary School, North Pine Elementary School, Prespatou Elementary School, Central Elementary School (Fort St John), Bob Johnston Residence (Upper Cache Creek), Upper Halfway - Lash Callison Residence, Upper Pine Elementary School, Taylor Village Office, Wonowon Elementary School, Pink Mountain Post Office, Hudson's Hope Community Hall.

Voters may vote at any poll that is convenient to them.

A 60 per cent yes vote is required for approval of the referendum.

Hospital bed need urgent says BCCHS

DEC 9, 1970

Peace River-Liard regional hospital district stated today that studies by the British Columbia hospital insurance service indicate that there is an almost immediate need for additional beds in the region's hospitals.

Studies in School district No 60 indicate that at least six additional beds will be required in 1971 and five more will be required by 1973. In School District No 59, 19 new acute care beds should be provided immediately, in addition to the 30 beds now under construction. The additional beds are required to meet the needs of a growing population and to replace acute beds which are required for extended care purposes.

The officials indicated that early approval of the referendum is required so that the local hospital boards can commence planning for the additional beds and they pointed out that about four

years is required from the date of approval to plan and construct hospital facilities.

In the period up to 1974, the hospital facilities available will be insufficient to meet the area's needs. However, because the region's proposal is for a longer period of time, it should be possible to ensure that after 1974 the facilities available will be in line with the area's needs.

In the case of Fort Nelson, recent studies have shown that Fort Nelson general hospital should have 41 beds now and possibly 60 beds by 1976. The hospital presently has 33 beds. It is thought that makeshift arrangements will permit the hospital to be brought up to a capacity of 41 beds in the near future and is proposed to commence planning as soon as possible for the construction of up to 27 new beds.

However, it was emphasized that the hospitals' most urgent needs are not for more beds, but for additional and up-dated services. In the area of clinical services, the immediate need is for psychiatric facilities, rehabilitative and physical medicine and diagnostic and outpatient services. The objective in providing this kind of facility is to eliminate, as much as possible, the expense and inconvenience of referrals to larger centres and to rehabilitate and to return patients to their work as soon as possible.

At Saint Joseph general hospital there is an immediate physical urgency for additional laundry services. Saint Joseph general provides a regional laundry service to Pouce Coupe hospital and will be providing the same service to Chetwynd hospital when it is completed. By having this regional service available at Saint Joseph general, the need for special laundry facilities at Chetwynd and Pouce Coupe is avoided. However, Saint Joseph general will not be able to provide this service unless it is provided with more equipment and storage facilities.

Although present occupancy rates may appear to be comfortable, this is not always the case. Occupancy rates are average figures and there are times when the hospitals are completely full. In addition there are times when there are vacancies. However, the vacancies may be in the children's ward at a time when

adult beds are needed, or vice versa. While hospitals are prepared to make-do at times and to adjust to circumstances as they arise, it is not possible for them to provide adequate service without adequate facilities. Hospitals cannot operate effectively and efficiently when they have a very high occupancy rate.

DC apathy scuttles hospital referendum

Final figures in connection with the regional hospital referendum may not be available for some days. Information received from the regional board office December 14 showed that 2,807 votes had been cast in favor of the referendum and 2,132 against it.

On these figures the referendum has failed to gain the required 60 per cent and has therefore failed. Ballots from Moberly Lake, Upper Halfway and Upper Cache Creek have still to come in but in view of the small number of voters involved it is considered unlikely that the 56.8 per cent "yes" vote will be materially altered.

The total vote is disappointing — it is expected that final figures will show that only about one-third of the 15,000 eligible throughout the region actually recorded a vote. Full details will be published as soon as they are available.

Statement by hospital board

George Broadhurst, chairman of the Providence Hospital Board of management, issued the following remarks concerning the apparent defeat of the Peace River-Liard Hospital Referendum.

"The board of management is quite naturally very disappointed with the result of the voting. We are, however, most thankful for the strong support given by the voters of Fort St John. This strong yes vote shows that the citizens of our town have faith in the continued growth of the Peace country and realize that this continued growth requires us to plan ahead for the things we will need in the future and not depend on short term desperation planning after the need becomes critical.

The regional board has not given us any indication as yet, what change of planning they envisage as a result of the overall vote, but we assume that a regional meeting will be called in the near future.

Months of careful planning, based on actual surveys and scientific projections, went into the development of the

Record turnout

Dawson Creek registered 1,003 in favor of the hospital referendum and 673 against. This worked out to 60.7 per cent in favor as compared to 73.9 per cent in Fort St John.

Fort St John set a record with a 51 per cent turnout of voters in the December 12 municipal elections.

Out of 2,729 voters 1,392 cast ballots which elected a new mayor-elect and alderman. Two incumbents were returned to office.

Mayor-elect Peter Frankiw led all the way in the mayoralty race. He received 26 votes compared to four for incumbent Bill Stark in the advance poll. Frankiw increased his lead throughout the evening and a final tally showed him the winner at 745 votes compared to 610 for Stark.

Ald Keith Dixon topped the polls at 1,021 followed closely by a political newcomer and alderman-elect, Leon Thomas, with 955. A 111 votes made Ald Mel Clarke a winner over Ralph Pomeroy with 837 votes compared to 726.

The hospital referendum had an overwhelming yes vote of 1,061 as compared to 375 saying no. The FSJ voters were 73.9 per cent in favor of the referendum but money bylaws need a 60 per cent majority to pass. Over the Peace River-Liard Regional Hospital District the figure came to 57 per cent and the referendum consequently does not pass.

In Hudson Hope a vigorous campaign revolved around vacant aldermanic seats. Emerging victorious was John Koenig with 246 compared to 92 for Eugene Stuble. Winners for the three other seats were Lawrence Gething with 181, Peter Boykowich at 175 followed by James Tex MacKeigan with 161. Trailing were Florence Stuble with 148 and Trudy Hieber at 141.

Editorial comment

We congratulate the progressive voters of Fort St John and Fort Nelson who so handsomely supported the hospital referendum. However, despite the encouraging general increase in the proportion of the electorate recording a vote, it would appear that the opponents of progress have scored another victory. In those opponents we include all those eligible to vote who failed to do so as well as those who voted against the expansion referendum.

Ill-advised and ill-led as these people were these facts can only partly be used to condone the irresponsibility of their action. The defeat of the hospital referendum has gone a long way toward relegating Fort St John (and the other municipalities in the region) to the Hicksville league. The type of new resident we so urgently need to attract is likely to place great importance upon the availability of good hospital facilities. Everyone working for the greater development and prosperity of the whole region has received a slap in the face.

The latest result amply demonstrates the stupidity of the referendum system which places the future of a whole region in the hands of a minority of malcontents and don't-cares. The money referendum to decide the future of essential social services is outdated, undemocratic, money and time-wasting. If the services are necessary they should be provided by the province and taxation adjusted accordingly. As an instrument of government the money referendum can only be tolerated as the tool of an effete and hesitant provincial administration. How much longer will BC have to endure it?

Hudson Hope was a close one with 99 registering a yes vote and 94 opposing.

The village of Taylor has a new mayor. Glen Kylo was elected with 57 votes followed by Del Fuhrman with 48 and Peter Ejack with 30.

Elected aldermen were Egon

DEF 216, 1970 *
HOSPITAL REFERENDUM failed to gain the required 60 per cent voting in favor and therefore was defeated during a vote in conjunction with mayoralty election. George Broadhurst, chairman of the Providence Hospital Board said that the board will be conferring with the medical staff and hospital administrators on alternate ways of overcoming the present problems brought about by insufficient facilities.

Dec. 13, 1970

George Broadhurst, chairman of the Providence Hospital Board of Management, issued the following remarks concerning the apparent defeat of the Peace River-Liard Hospital referendum.

Final figures in connection with the regional hospital referendum may not be available for some days but early returns indicated 2,807 votes have been cast in favor of the referendum and 2,132 were against it.

"The board of management is quite naturally very disappointed with the result of the voting. We are, however, most thankful for the strong support given by the voters of Fort St. John," he said.

"This strong 'yes' vote shows that the citizens of our town have faith in the continued growth of the Peace country and realize that this continued growth requires us to plan ahead for the things we will need in the future and not depend on the short-term desperation planning after the need becomes critical."

referendum and were approved by the BCHIS. These plans and projections are still valid and therefore presumably can only be shelved and not discarded as, if the projections prove accurate, the recommended major expansions will have to come.

Although it was made abundantly clear during the publicity concerning the referendum, that no major construction or projects would be likely to commence for two to three years, there are facilities at our hospital which are

with 171 votes retained a seat on the school board by defeating Doreen Lockhart who gathered 168 supporters.

The hospital referendum in

already overtaxed.

The board of management will be conferring with the medical staff and hospital administrator as to how to overcome these difficulties or at least alleviate them until a course of action is developed to replace or fill in for the existing regional plan, should the final count confirm defeat of the referendum."

Kirkpatrick with 50 followed closely by Terence Edge with 49. Gwen Bogehold, an incumbent was defeated, receiving only 42 votes.

Taylor passed the hospital referendum 76 to 45.

POWER OUTAGE

A major portion of Fort St John was struck by a power failure around 12 pm December 15 when a crane hit a power line in the PGE industrial yards and blew fuses. Some line changes were being done at the same time by B C Hydro but power was restored within 15 minutes.