

# Hospital Guardian

Local 180

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' FEDERAL UNION

VOL. 1 No. 7

July 1955

Publishers News Letter.

Dear Readers:

At this time of the year it is very hard to think of contracts, "freeze orders" and such things, except of course, we never seem to have enough money to partake of all the activities that the summer months make possible.

However we hope you all enjoyed the Beach Party at Spanish Banks July 15th. I am sure that everyone who attended will agree it was a wonderful party. Thanks are due again to our Social Committee.

FLASH! All Anglers. We hope you have been able to beg, buy, or at least rent a boat in order to take part in our 3rd Annual Salmon Derby to be held at Horseshoe Bay, 31st July, see details inside.

August 14th will be another red letter day; our Annual Picnic will be held on that date at Locarno Beach, will start at 10 a.m.

There will be no regular meeting either in July or August but please take special notice, there will be a SPECIAL meeting Sept. 16 at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple; this will be in addition to the regular meeting Sept. 27th, same time and place.

We hope and trust you all have a very happy suntan summer and return from your vacation full of vim, vigor and vitality and chock-full of new and constructive ideas for the coming year. We remain,

Fraternally yours,

Education and Contract Committee,

Chairman - Hugh Duff, Jim Ballard, Jack Brown,

H. Shultz, Charlie Steele, Jean Robertson

Audrey Jeffery. E. Thomas.

---

## COMING EVENTS

---

### SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting will be held 8 p.m. 16th Sept. at the Labor Temple, 307 W. Broadway; be sure to attend. This will be the most important meeting of the year.

### 3rd ANNUAL SALMON DERBY

31st July, Horseshoe Bay, B.C.

### 3rd ANNUAL PICNIC

Locarno Beach, Sunday, 14th August. An event for the whole family.



YOUR BUSINESS  
"HOSPITALS' DILEMMA"

W.M. Black  
Business Manager.

In our opinion, the "pay as you go" policy of the Provincial Govt. is not operatable in the hospital field. There is no hospital scheme in the world that is not subsidized. No allowances were made for the terrific increase in population, nor the fact that B.C. had more senior citizens per population than any other Province in Canada. Many of our hospitals are operating under overcrowded and deplorable conditions which are not condusive to an efficient operation, and senior citizens are long-stay patients. The increase in life expectancy has an impact on the scheme; as new beds are constructed, and there are many which will come into operation within the next few years, this will of necessity, add more staff and increase cost. The type of service rendered to the public has never been determined for individual hospitals; we feel that independent hospital experts should be called in to review the entire operation of the scheme and review the operations of the individual hospitals.

We are of the opinion that the Government finds that the additional 2% sales tax is not sufficient to adequately take care of the B.C.H.I.S. on a "pay as you go" basis. The assumption in the public mind is that the total 5% sales tax is going to hospitalization, unmindful of the fact that 3% of the sales tax is going to other services. This too should be reviewed.

Are we as hospital employees not efficient, or are we doing a poor job? Those are the questions. If we are not, who is responsible? If there is inefficiency in the operation of the B.C.H.I.S. or at the local administrative level, is this our responsibility, and because of inefficiency, should we be prevented from negotiating fair and reasonable wages, or bargaining in a responsible manner? At the bargaining table we are not adamant, always prepared to listen to reason and compromise; we will certainly give every consideration to our approach to the bargaining table in the future.

We are not suggesting that the Government should write a blank cheque to cover hospital operations, nor are we suggesting there should be no controls or restraints, but we do suggest that the proper direction could be given by the B.C.H.I.S. concerning the controls and restrictions affecting all phases of hospital administrations, not just labor, and clearly understood by all concerned. Natural economic laws will control wages and perquisites without Government interference; the standard of living of the hospital worker will only improve in conjunction and in relation to that of the rest of the workers in the Province.



### NOTICE TO ANGLERS

V.G.H. 3rd Annual Salmon Derby to be held Sunday, July 31st, at Horseshoe Bay. Entry deadline is July 22nd and the fee is \$1.00. Cash prizes and a beautiful trophy donated by Local 180 goes to the angler with the heaviest fish at weigh-in.

The trophy was hooked by Phil Brucal with a 17½ pounder in 1954, and he is challenging all V.G.H. anglers in 1955, rain or shine. Row or motor boats can be obtained through committee members and any equipment needed can be rented from Art's or Sewell's boat-houses.

Any information can be obtained from Stan Kania, Frank Brown, Gordon McRae, all in the Maintenance Dept., regarding the weigh-in time, boundaries, etc., so HURRY, HURRY, HURRY, it's later than you think.

Come one, come all, there are just a few boats left, but if you can beg, borrow or steal one, anyway be sure to be there.

---

#### STAN KANIA

Along with the old shoes tied to the back of the newly-weds car was a sign which read:  
"AMATEUR NIGHT!"

---

He who gets too big for his britches will be exposed in the end.

---

A man never knows what real joy is until he gets married -- and then it's too late.

### A TREE GROWS FROM ITS ROOTS

A union is like a tree -

The seed - a desire for better things.

The root - membership in the locals.

The trunk - the main union body.

The branches - the districts, divisions, etc.

The leaves - the officers, executives, etc.

The leaves may wither and fall but so long as the root is healthy more will be grown.

The branches may be lopped off but so long as the root is healthy more will grow.

The trunk may be chopped down but so long as the root is healthy another can be grown.

If the root should wither and die then the whole will die away and may not be revived.

The membership is the root that maintains the whole.

The root is kept healthy through proper cultivation - regular attendance at meetings,

The meetings provide necessary nutrients to the root through discussions, decisions, exchange of ideas; it is here that new seeds are developed.

May our tree flourish, shelter and protect us for the rest of our working days.

E. R. THOMAS.



### DID YOU KNOW.

Do you remember your first union meeting? Almost as soon as the meeting began you were asked to come forward and take the obligation. You were probably nervous, there were a lot of strange people around you, perhaps the language was strange to you.

If you will turn to page 12 of the Constitution and By-Laws (1953) you can read over the obligation and see what it was you promised at that time.

One promise you made was, "to make every possible effort to attend all meetings". How seriously do you treat your promises? Are they what our mothers used to call 'pie-crust promises' - easily broken? Or are you a person who believes in keeping a promise? The strength of your Union depends on the degree to which the members honor their contracts. If you consider this obligation merely 'sound and fury' - signifying nothing, then your Union also, to you at least, signifies nothing.

If you are serious in your intent, what do you mean by "every possible effort"? Do you mean - "if it doesn't cause me any inconvenience", or "maybe I'll go if nothing else is on". Many things may prevent your attendance - if you are ill - if you are on duty - or if some unforeseen circumstance arises at the last minute. But if you are "making every possible effort" you should at least know the Union dates and plan your other activities in order to leave the fourth Tuesday of the month free. Sometimes there will be special meetings on special days, but you will usually have sufficient notice in order to arrange your calendar.

A meeting called at a different time is usually called because some matter of special importance needs to be considered - and probably decided on - before the next regular meeting date. So if you wish to have a voice in your own affairs it is important to attend.

Notices of all meetings are posted on the Union bulletin board, near the time clock office, and also at the laundry and carpenters' shop. You should make a habit of glancing over the board as you come and go from work, so that you will know what is going on.

If you value the protection and help the Union gives you, you should try to keep your promise and spend two hours a month helping your fellow members give guidance and direction to your executive.

JEAN ROBERTSON.



### HOW TO LIVE ON \$15.00 A WEEK.

Whiskey and Beer.....	\$ 8.80
Wife's Beer .....	1.65
Meat, Groceries.....	On Credit.
Rent.....	Pay Next Week.
Mid-week whiskey .....	2.50
Movies .....	.60
Coal.....	Borrow Neighbour's.
Life Insurance (Wife's) ..	.50
Hot Tips on Horses .....	.50
Tobacco .....	.45
Poker Game .....	1.65

\$ 16.65

This means going into debt -  
SO CUT OUT THE WIFE'S BEER.

---

### BULLETIN BOARDS.

From time to time notices appear requesting you to supply us with some information to be written on the notices.

The Social Comm. placed such a notice recently in regard to the Beach Party; they wished to know who would be going and how many there would be in each party. It was to them a very serious thing as they have to be able to make some estimate of refreshments required. However, the results were useless there were so many instances of alleged wit or should I say, half wit, written on them. Please co-operate with your Committees and Executives and be serious and conscientious when supplying requested information.

---

### 3rd ANNUAL PICNIC.

Local 180 will hold its 3rd Annual Picnic at Locarno Beach 14th. August, Sunday, commencing at 10a.m. It was felt that this would be a handier location than the Peace Arch, being close in many members who may be working some part of the day will still be able to attend.

Those of you who were at our picnic last year will remember the heavy rains and the valiant efforts made by our Social Committee to ensure that everyone had a good time. This year we shall hope and expect a hot, bright, sunny day.

So decide now to bring the whole family for a really wonderful day. Arrangements will be similar to last year; coffee for the adults, ice-cream, pop, etc., for the kiddies. Bring a picnic lunch.

A very versatile sports program has been arranged; there will be loads of prizes for all events. Let's make this THE event of the year. EVERYBODY COME.

She paraded up and down in front of her husband, showing off her new gown. "Well how do I look" she asked him.

Her husband hesitated before speaking, then murmured, "I know it sounds unkind dear, but you are getting fat". "In the best places they say 'plump'", she snapped. "Well then", he retorted, "in the best places you are getting plump!"



### AS THE PRESIDENT SEES IT.

Since our Annual Convention held in May of this year, we had looked forward to another year of progress throughout the province in the organizing of hospitals under the banner of Local 180. However, the B.C.H.I.S. saw fit to issue a freeze order on costs of hospitalization.

This local of ours knows quite well the problem of the B.C. Government in regards to the costs of hospitals in B.C. I was privileged to be one of your table officers when we interviewed Health Minister Martin on this matter, and I can assure you that Bro. Black laid before the Minister in no uncertain manner, the thinking of Local 180.

Our backs were being forced against the wall; we were being accused of forcing hospital costs out of proportion by continually asking for wage increases (this is not true.) The Minister was informed that this was not the case, so now the Government is changing the tune a bit, the excuse now is that hospitals are overstaffed. I wonder what next.

In spite of all freeze orders, etc., it will surprise many of our members when Bill Black makes his next report, as real progress has been made in the past month.

As your Provincial President, let me remind the members of all

the units that go to the bargaining table this year, that the task of negotiating contracts for 1956 will not be an easy one, and I ask you to be patient with your committees, as the job they are attempting to do for you under such conditions, must be appreciated to the fullest extent. Never forget, a job is being done and done well. . .

H. GARDEN  
Provincial President.

They heard the elevator door close and then the sound of a key entering the lock.

"Quick", she said, "It's my husband. Jump out the window."

"But we're on the thirteenth floor!" protested her visitor.

"Blow Buster!" she commanded, "This is no time to be superstitious!"

A young bride of three months complained to her relations about her husband's continued drinking habits.

"If you knew he drank, why did you marry him?" she was asked.

"I didn't know he drank," the girl replied, "until one night he came home sober!"

If you had your water cut off Tuesday and you didn't discover it until Saturday, that means you're intemperate.



## BUILDERS OF THE CANADIAN COMMONWEALTH

The real builders of our Canadian Commonwealth are its people from the various lands across the seas, with their different ideas and opinions. Canadians hitherto in the past have been only slightly acquainted with the achievements of those who have helped to make Canada a great nation.

Canada is relatively still a very young country; her history not much more than a hundred years old, but it is undoubtedly the country of the future, richer than any other in the world. What is a real Canadian? A real Canadian is a builder for the future of a greater and better Canada.

In Canada today, you will find members of all nations, races and colour, working peacefully and in harmony together in their daily occupations. Today, only a very short time after the last war, thousands of new people have been admitted to Canada from war torn countries of Europe. They came over here on their own free will with great hopes for a new life and a better and safer future for themselves and their families.

I think that it is worthwhile for them to get all the information possible, and if such information comes to them from the people who perhaps came to Canada twenty to thirty years ago, from the very same countries that they came from, it is more valuable. It must be very surprising for many who come here and work amongst older Canadians, to find working conditions of which back home they were only dreaming. Such achievements as the eight hour day, five day week, paid vacations, pensions at a certain age, it certainly did not come as manna from heaven; on the contrary, the Canadian worker had to struggle for this for years and years. In most cases we obtained all this in peaceful negotiations and always with the hope of a better future.

Such privileges for the worker brings, naturally, certain obligations. Wherever you are, when you are paid for your work, do your work to the best of your ability, be always reliable, remember that you are a new man in a new country and have much to learn. Now it is entirely up to you to prove to the rest of your fellow men that you come from good stock. You will still be proud of your native country, but at the proper time become a full-fledged Canadian Citizen. Remember the years of unrest and political strife you had to go through before you came over here, so be steadfast and loyal to this, your new country and follow the footsteps of those who came before you and found rest and peace, and then someday you will also be a builder for a better Canada.

FRANK PETERS.



MR. BENNETT SAYS -

The Honorable Mr. Bennett, leader of the Social Credit party in B.C., and head of the present Provincial Government, must of necessity set the pattern for the members of his party who are in office.

It was with great interest that in reading a statement of Mr. Bennett's in the Vancouver Sun, Thursday, July 7th, 1955, under the heading, BENNETT FORECASTS NEW CUT IN DEBT, I came upon this statement of Mr. Bennett's and I quote "CONTRARY TO WHAT SOME PEOPLE THINK, HIGH WAGES IN B.C. ARE AN OVERALL ASSET, NOT A LIABILITY. HIGH WAGES DO NOT HURT THE ECONOMY OF THIS PROVINCE BECAUSE B.C. ALSO HAS A HIGHER PRODUCTIVE OUTPUT FROM ITS WORKERS"., end of quotation.

This is not only interesting to Hospital Employees' Federal Union, Local 180, but to every organized and unorganized worker in the Province of B.C.

The Honorable Mr. Martin, our Minister of Health and Welfare in the B.C. government, was certainly not in step with the thinking of the leader of his party when he issued the now infamous freeze order to the hospital directors in the Province of B.C., in fact, according to what Mr. Bennett says, Mr. Martin is trying to prevent the hospital workers from doing their share in building up the overall assets of this province in the form of higher wages.

The wages of hospital workers being lower than most of the other organized workers in B.C., and not wanting Mr. Bennett to get the impression that we are not doing our proportional share in building up the overall assets of this province, would Mr. Bennett please have a heart-to-heart talk to Mr. Martin, because we believe also, like Mr. Bennett says, that high wages do not hurt the economy of the province.

Mr. Martin would not want to continue to prevent the hospital workers, through the freeze order, from doing their part in helping to build up, as Mr. Bennett says, the overall assets of the province of B.C., but will, as a responsible servant of the people, naturally want to help the hospital workers do their part by lifting the restrictive freeze order.

This will also give back to the hospital workers their faith which they are rapidly losing, in the workability of the labor laws of B.C., which the Honorable Mr. Wicks, Minister of Labor, with certainly no assistance from Mr. Martin, is trying to enforce.

Local 180, as a responsible organization, is trying to live up to its responsibilities in spite of the discriminating and unfair pressure of the freeze order, but now, thanks to Mr. Bennett, we will once more be able to do our fair share in furthering the prosperity of B.C.

JAMES BALLARD.