

Hospital Guardian

Local 180

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' FEDERAL UNION

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PUBLISHERS NEWS LETTER

Dear Readers -

On September 16th, at the special meeting, we were all afforded an opportunity to voice our opinions, desires and demands in regards to the contract for 1956-57. As a result of our discussions and decisions, our Negotiating Committee is now prepared to lead the fight for a contract that will satisfy all of us.

We must bear in mind, however, that it is we, the whole membership, who are negotiating, not just the Business Agent and the rest of the Negotiating Committee, who are merely our representatives presenting our case to the management, and the results depend upon the attitude of all of us, our attendance at meetings, our attitude between meetings, even the way we perform our duties at the hospital, these all have their effect upon negotiations.

Just think, if every member turned out to every meeting when he or she was not on duty, then we could negotiate from a position of strength and could get anything we asked for. We realize that such perfection may not be possible but if we all try to develop a good attitude, both within ourselves and among our fellow members, then we could come a long way toward attaining our goal.

Let it be seen that WE ARE THE UNION, and that we have confidence in our representatives. We remain, fraternally yours,

Education and Contract Committee,

Chairman - Hugh Duff, Jim Ballard, Jack Brown

Charlie Steele, Jean Robertson,

Eric Thomas, Harold Shultz.

C O M I N G E V E N T S.

SEPTEMBER REGULAR MEETING

The regular September meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th at the Labor Temple,, 307 West Broadway, at 8 P.M. This is your business.

BLOOD DONATIONS

Blood donations may be given any Thursday night between 7 - 9 p.m. in the Out-patient Department of the Vancouver General Hospital. Remember some person needs your blood.

At the forthcoming Convention of the B.C. Trade Union Congress, the Hospital Employees' Federal Union, Local 180, will put forward a resolution requesting the Provincial Government to establish a Commission to re-assess the financial structure of the British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service with a view to providing necessary finances to maintain adequate hospitalization, without imposing a burden on the hospital workers and yet, provide the best possible service to the general public.

The present policy of freezing hospital budgets on a 1954 level is restricting the normal progressive operation of our hospitals, prohibiting the adoption of advances being made by medical science, which is to the detriment of the general public. It is also a method of enforcing hospital workers to underwrite or subsidize the B.C.H.I.S., and the order is in direct violation of the Labor Relations Act, and the Hospital Act, and is Government interference with collective bargaining. This places hospital administrations and hospital employees in an intolerable position.

We are of the opinion that grave misunderstandings exist between the Department of Health and Welfare and local Hospital administrations throughout the Province of British Columbia on budgetting procedures. Many of our hospitals are unable to balance their budgets and are operating on overdrafts from the banks upon which they pay five percent. This is not recoverable from the British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service. The policy of freezing has created tremendous unrest in the hospital field which is not conducive to the efficient operation of our hospitals, and should be reviewed.

We have been continuously told by the Honorable Eric Martin, Minister of Health and Welfare - "there is no further monies available for hospital financing; the public will not stand any further increased costs". Does the public have to stand for increased costs? If all financial aspects of the B.C.H.I.S. were minutely examined, we are of the opinion that we would find that the Service is operating in the black. Nevertheless, the Honorable Mr. Bennett, British Columbia's Premier, informed a by-election campaign audience at Squamish recently, that he is sitting on twenty-two million dollars in "straight cash", which he described as the highest figure in Provincial history. And this is not ear-marked for anything!

We definitely feel that a Commission, headed by a recognized, impartial hospital expert, would do much to clear the air.

Since the article written by E.R. Thomas appeared in the August issue of the Hospital Guardian, on whether hospital employees could strike, it has come to the attention of this paper that five Toronto hospitals are threatening strike action in the early fall.

The hospitals are-Toronto General, Toronto Western, Wellesley, Mount Sinai Hospital and Weston Sanatorium.

Such action would involve about 2,000 employees, including orderlies, nursing aides, ward aides, cleaners, elevator operators, laundry workers, kitchen assistants, food handlers and maintenance employees.

These workers are represented by the Building Employees Union, A.F.L.-T.L.C.

When Miss Minnie Fotzengargle and Mrs. Etrusha Whalebottom were shopping for groceries at the corner Food Emporium, they paused to watch a woman followed by two little girls, who were evidently twins, breeze proudly by.

"There goes that plushy Mrs. Maureen Feigenbaum and her twins," said Minnie. "You know, Mrs. Whalebottom, I read in an article the other day where it said twins is something that only happens once in 38,679 times."

"Indeed," said Mrs. Whalebottom, "I don't see how she ever had time to do her housework."

There's one thing about baldness - it's so neat!

Union members of the King's Daughters' Hospital and their guests enjoyed an evening of fun and frolic at the spacious grounds of our illustrious cook "Mac".

A nice large field provided space for a ballgame that cannot be described. A horse-shoe pitch supplied quieter entertainment for the more staid, while others raced around in spite of their years. Prizes were given for the various races, etc. and musical entertainment was furnished from a fine variety of records while dancing on the lawn was enjoyed by those in the mood.

A barbecue pit proved an excellent place to roast weiners, with all the trimmings close by. Pop and candy, etc., delighted the children, and doughnuts and a huge cake, plus coffee, finished off the feast.

To end the evening, everyone gathered around a huge bonfire to sing and chat. The weather left nothing to be desired and at 10 p.m. Auld Lang Syne was sung, ending another union party.

LELA ANDREWS

You may not be responsible for the things that happen to you; but you are responsible for the way you behave when they happen.

YOUR CREDIT UNION

As we move along in the fifth year of operations of our Credit Union, we can feel we have accomplished something that the City Hall and Hospital Employees can be really proud of. As of today, the assessments amount to \$150,000 which to my way of thinking is a very nice bit of business.

As most of you know, the payroll deduction scheme starts on its second six months in the month of October and I am happy to say that another \$1,000 was added to the monthly cheque which is sent to the Credit Union by the Vancouver General Hospital payroll department on your behalf. This is an increase of 100% and shows a growth that is very good indeed.

A hearty vote of thanks is certainly due to C. Jenkinson, C. Oldham and A. Fleming for their constant work on behalf of payroll deductions, a job very well done. I would urge members to use the Credit Union and as it is your Credit Union, sell all its many advantages to your fellow employee. Your board of directors is aiming to hold a general meeting of all the members sometime in October so keep your eyes on the notice board for further notices.

We are all glad to hear that Mr. McIntosh is well on the way to better health after a spell in the Vancouver General Hospital, where he recently underwent an operation but he will, no doubt, soon be back at his desk.

Anyone wishing information pertaining to the Credit Union operation, please contact any of the following members:

C. Jenkinson - Stores

C. Oldham - Maintenance

A. Fleming - Maintenance

Board Chairman -

H. Carden.

Helen reports being accosted in the park by two very dirty little boys.

"Say lady," one of them said, "my brother does imitations. If you give him a dime, he'll imitate a hen for you."

"What does he do," asked

Helen, "Cluck?"

"Nope," said the boy, "He'll eat a worm."

There's a new gadget that keeps the inside of a car quiet. It fits over her mouth.

A showgirl received a beautiful skunk coat from her husband as a birthday gift. "It's hard to imagine," said she, "that such a lovely coat comes from such a foul-smelling beast."

"I don't ask for thanks, dear" her timid husband replied, "but I would like a little respect."

MEN'S SOFTBALL NEWS

The staff of the V.G.H. should be very proud of their softball team which represented them in the Lower Mainland Hospital League.

Last year the boys won the league championship and playoffs and this year they repeated their double victory in a far more convincing manner, losing only three games whilst winning thirteen.

A great deal of credit for their continued success must go to Stan Kania, Manager and Bob East, Coach. These two men have worked and played hard for the team since it was organized three years ago. They both deserve special mention for the time and effort they have expended to give us a really good ballteam.

The boys who were a part of this group showed to this observer, that teamwork pays off. Everybody concerned played as a team and not as individuals; the result was the league championship and the trophy annually awarded for the final playoffs.

The members of the team and their playing positions are as follows:

Bob East	- Catcher
Bill Taylor	- Pitcher
George Bing	- Pitcher
John McLellan	- Infielder
Ed Tolman	- Infielder
Stan Kania	- Infielder
Ray Warren	- Infielder
George Taylor	- Outfielder
Fred Gelowitz	- Outfielder
Cliff Moyes	- Outfielder
Gordon McRae	- Outfielder

With the exception of one man all the players are V.G.H. employees.

The writer of this article, who is not connected in any way with the team was disappointed in the support given the boys during the season. Moral support from the employees can, and does mean a great deal to your ball team - so folks, how about next season?

One of the fans.

A young Marine captain who had been in Korea for the better part of a year found he was to be returned to San Francisco for a month's leave. He wired ahead asking that his wedding to his faithful and charming fiancée be arranged for the day of his arrival back home.

After the marriage ceremony at the church he seized his bride in his arms, and they went into a warm, lingering kiss which lasted and lasted, while the guests watched with moist eyes and a catch in their throats.

Suddenly the long silence was broken by the shrill, childish voice in the back of the room, piping: "Is he spreading pollen on her now, Mummy?"

A drunk walked into a department store with a nightgown and told the salesgirl - "I'd like to get a refill, please."

WHO MAKES THE NEWS?

How can any publication which professes to be for, and to belong to the employees, consistently ignore an organization to which 65% to 70% of those employees belong?

How can any newsworthy event such as the Children's Christmas Parties, Beach Parties, Dances and the Annual Picnic be covered if the organization which sponsored them is entirely ignored?

We have in the city here, one of the finest Children's Camps in the west, the Children's Jubilee Summer Camp, sponsored and largely supported by organized labor. Local 180 is proud and happy to be an active supporter of this Camp. We have volunteers who give liberally of their time and energy without thought of monetary returns; Local 180 has donated large amounts of cash for many years. Ken Cowan and Phil Broughton are Local 180 delegates to the Association this year.

The Social Committee of Local 180 sponsor each year, a Christmas Party for CHILDREN, a night of entertainment long remembered, with quality gifts for each child. Local 180 is happy to foot the bill. In a similar manner, dances and beach parties are held, no expense is spared to make them a success, supplied again by Local 180, plus the strenuous efforts of Local 180 Social Committee.

The recent picnic, which we reported last month, was one of the later successes of this hard-working Committee of Local 180. Free pop, ice-cream for the kiddies, coffee and tea for the adults. In all the many events, the prizes were substantial and numerous. Local 180 was glad to pick up the not inconsiderable tab.

Surely in the interests of co-operation and fair play it should be possible to give Local 180 credit for the many worthwhile activities it sponsors. If truth is stranger than fiction, surely half-truths are like faint praise, and infinitely more damning. Hospital Guardian reaches the aforementioned 65% of the employees, their relatives and friends, but what do the remaining 35% read and believe, we wonder? The stated policy of this paper has been at all times to give factual and impartial coverage to whatever appears in its columns. Myself and my committee stand ready at all times to co-operate in any way we can, in order that newsworthy items may reach 100% of the V.G.H. employees.

Hugh Duff, Chairman
Education and Contract
Committee, V.G.H. Unit #180.

P.N.E. EMERGENCY HOSPITAL - V.G.H.

The Pacific National Exhibition - circus, sideshows, games, rides sweetmeats, hamburgers, exhibits - these things are usually associated with laughter and enjoyment, but when thousands of pleasure-bent people congregate every day there are bound to be some aches, pains, illnesses and accidents. For the purpose of alleviating such discomforts, the Vancouver General operates an emergency hospital on the exhibition grounds every year while the Exhibition is in progress. This emergency hospital is a small building a short distance inside the East Miller Gate, close to Windermere St. and next to the Livestock Buildings facing the race track.

The staff of the Hospital consists of a nurse and two or three internes who are on duty from 1 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. each day and an orderly who remains at the hospital 24 hours a day excepting Sundays. The nurse, Miss M. Martin, is a pleasant, efficient person who has been with the hospital every year for the past eight years. There are different internes each day, two or three, according to the number of performances at the circus, as one interne must be in attendance at each circus performance. The orderly, who sleeps at the hospital, administers first aid as required before the arrival of the nurse and the doctors.

I was very glad of the opportunity to assist in this capacity for this season as it was a pleasant change from routine hospital work, and the patients and their ailments were interesting and varied. In the forenoon I sterilized instruments, cleaned and dusted between applications of dressings, aspirins and sympathy. In the afternoon I helped the nurse and doctors wherever possible while keeping the place tidy and was able to take an occasional stroll around the grounds. At night I was lulled to sleep by the combined chorus of the chickens, turkeys, and geese, punctuated once in a while by the squeals of pigs.

The Hospital is adequately equipped with beds, other furnishings and instruments for the operation of its services. During the ten days of the Exhibition, 350 cases were treated, including gun-shot wounds, collapses, bites from horses, pigs, dogs and rabbits, bee stings, fractures, sprains, cuts, bruises, headaches, toothaches, upset stomachs, blistered heels, slivers, fatigue, etc. All of the above services were supplied by the hospital free of charge to everyone. In addition, the Exclusive Ambulance provided free ambulance service within the grounds, one ambulance being stationed at the hospital and another ambulance at the race track during the races.

ERIC R. THOMAS.

GAMBLERS -- ALL

Very often in our daily life we hear the expression that in our earthly existence everything is more or less a gamble. This seems quite correct to me and there are some outstanding examples of gamblers around, be it in cards or dice, horse races or bingo, or even fishing derbies. I am not much of a gambler of any kind but let me tell you of my recent personal experience in gambling during my holidays. For the average reader, places like Las Vegas or Reno in the state of Nevada, U.S.A., are well known, so I decided to have a Go - Look - and See, and Oh brother, what I saw!

On my way to Reno, I passed through Salt Lake City, a wonderfully clean and interesting city and worthwhile to visit, and passing through miles and miles of desert, arrived in Reno, the mecca of the gamblers, and had a good look around. Imagine a place slightly bigger than Chilliwack, dozens of gambling casinos, containing roulette tables, dice games, black jack, lotteries, bingo and furthermore, in any establishment here, taxi offices, cafes, in any nook or cranny of any store are slot machines, the so-called one-armed bandits. This is Reno, the biggest little city in the world, and open from the first of January to the last day in December, 24 hours a day, with the motto "We never close".

What a crowd, every casino packed full, and money, money, everywhere. Roulette tables, dice, black jack and hundreds and hundreds of slot machines in the denominations of 5, 10, 25, 50 cents and the dollar, going full blast all day long and all night through. Very reluctantly I started on roulette, and imagine - I won. Yes sir, it went up to about \$70, but then it went down, down, down, so I quit when I figured I had my experience on roulette, and had a go at the slot machines (what you think, the 10¢ ones) I kept going for about half an hour, and then (Oh! my) I hit the jackpot, that meant \$15.20 and then I quit for good. Later on I found out that my total winnings amounted to \$37.50 and I was very satisfied and I played no more, no more.

In conclusion let me tell you, that words cannot accurately describe the conditions that exist in Reno or Las Vegas (Las Vegas is only bigger and more expensive) so if you have any money to blow away or want to get rid of quick, then Reno is the right place for you, because you will have to remember, the house never, never loses.

FRANK PETERS.