

Hospital Guardian

Local 180

HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES' FEDERAL UNION

VOL. 2 No. 4

April 1955

Publishers News Letter

Dear Readers:

Welcome to our new local unit executive - -

Chairman - J. Murray.

Vice-Chairman - C. Steele.

Secretary - P. Forsha.

Conductor - A. Jeffery.

Warden - J. Lawson.

The Hospital Guardian joins with the rest of the members of our Unit in wishing them the best of luck and wisdom in the coming year. Previous executives have set a high standard of sincerity and efficiency, and we are sure that this executive will maintain and attempt to surpass their predecessors' record.

A hearty welcome also, to all the delegates to our 5th Annual Provincial Convention. We hope and trust that they will be able to find sometime in their busy schedule of business to see and enjoy the city of sunshine, flowers and balmy breezes, the evergreen playground of Canada's west coast - Vancouver. Hoping the delegates don't run into our occasional damp mist, we remain, fraternally yours

Education and Contract Committee.

Chairman, Hugh Duff - Jim Ballard, Charlie Steele,
Audrey Jeffery, Mary Clark, Jean Robertson
Jack Brown, Eric Thomas, Harold Schultz.

COMING EVENTS

APRIL REGULAR MEETING

This meeting will be held
April 26th at 8 p.m. in the
Labor Temple, 307 West Broadway.

Let's make a special point
of attending this meeting and
give the new executive our whole
hearted support.

SPRING DANCE

LIONS GATE HALL, 2611 W. 4th
SATURDAY, MAY 14th
Frankie McPhalen and his
5-piece Orchestra.

Dancing - 9 till 12
Door prizes and Spot Prizes
Tickets - 75¢

It becomes more and more apparent that Hospital Boards throughout the Province of British Columbia are making an all-out effort to hold down wages and perquisites of hospital workers. I have come to the conclusion it is a question of whose ox is being gored. "As long as I am getting mire, I am going to stop you from getting yours" seems to be the attitude. Evidently it has not yet penetrated that hospital services are public services, financed by the general public of this province, and not by any specific local community.

The Welfare State is going to be good sound reasoning for everyone but the hospital workers. The Government is going to pension off M.L.A.'s, and give them Medical Coverage. In addition to their \$3,000 Sessional pay, they will receive \$15 per day living allowance while in Victoria. The Civic employee is entitled to Severance Pay, Group Life Insurance, M.S.A. and Superannuation benefits. The Civil Servant receives similar considerations; and yet, the service rendered to the community by hospital workers is as great as that rendered by the above groups.

We do not sit in judgment on the standards of living of any other group of employees. The productivity of our people is just as high as that of any other class of workers in British Columbia. We have no intention of permitting others to state what our standards of living are going to be while they themselves take advantage of the Welfare State at our expense.

The local business man, sitting on local Hospital Boards, is very conscious of his cash register. He likes to hear it tingling. Always aware of his own employees, usually unorganized employees, he doesn't relate our service to public services. If a new precedent is created in the hospital field, his only thought is "How will this re-act with my own employees? How will this affect my cash register?" Organized Labor should have a long look at the composition of Hospital Boards. We, too, are part of the community and have a stake in the operation of hospitals.

It is certainly not the fault of the hospital worker if hospitalization was not financially sound in the first instance. We have no intention of subsidizing the mistakes or follies of others. If there are difficulties in operating hospitals, that is not our responsibility.

In order to hold the line as far as costs are concerned, it would be an excellent idea if the Government brought in a team of experts to review hospital administrations from the top down instead of the bottom up, then we may bring about some stability in the operation of hospitals.

YOUR EXECUTIVE

Your executive does not propose to make a lot of extravagant promises as to what they are going to win for you at the bargaining table when your contract is re-opened in the Fall.

The economic conditions in this province as a whole, will in the main, determine the wages and conditions, not only in the VGH but throughout all of B.C.

Our business and political leaders have recently assured us that this province stands on the threshold of the greatest business expansion ever known.

Surely we too, will share in the great gains made by business when and if, such a happy event occurs; at least let us hope so and let us further hope that our new contract not only includes wage gains, but that fringe benefits too will be on a generous scale.

An all inclusive health and welfare plan has become a must for all hospital employees.

Jim Murray
V.G.H. Chairman.

WELCOME NEW UNITS

The Union office has been able to organize the St. Eugene Hospital at Cranbrook, B.C. We are also attempting to organize the M.S.A. Hospital at Abbotsford, B.C. We take this opportunity of welcoming these members into Canada's largest family of hospital workers - LOCAL 180.

CHILDREN'S JUBILEE SUMMER CAMP

The annual convention of the C.J.S.C.Ass'n. will be held at Orlomah Beach on Sunday, May 15th. Delegates from Trade Unions, Fraternal Organizations and private supporters of the camp will meet to discuss the operation of the camp for the coming year.

It is also a day when parents and their children are invited to come and see the camp, one of the finest and most reasonable camps for children.

The Harbour Navigation boat leaves Gore Ave. at 10 a.m. and after a lovely two hour cruise up Burrard Inlet, arrives at the camp-site. The fare for Adults is \$1.40 return, Children 75¢. You may bring a picnic lunch, picnic facilities are available, or if you prefer, you may lunch with the delegates for the nominal sum of \$1.25.

You will be taken on a conducted tour of the camp; everything will be shown and explained to you. The boat will call again about 4 p.m., arriving in the city by 6 p.m. See this camp and you may like to send the children.

Camp Manager, Jim Cox says that work parties have not been up yet, due to inclement weather, although there is lots to be done. Any member of Local 180 wishing to join a work party, may phone Jim at DI 0402, or contact Phil Broughton or Ken Cowan in the Hospital.

Hugh Duff.

DID YOU KNOW?

On April 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1955, the Hospital Employees' Federal Union, Local 180 holds its 5th Annual Convention at Vancouver in the Hotel Georgia.

Perhaps the most important thing that will be accomplished at this convention will be the strengthening and tighter knitting together of our organization, through getting to know each other better.

Below you will find the listed names of the Accredited Delegates to the convention.

Welcome to our city and may your short stay be both informative and enjoyable.

Vic Brier - Burnaby
Tony Burrell - Burnaby

Cecil Everest - Chilliwack
Sylvia Tucker - Chilliwack

P. Barber - Cranbrook
S.C. Wakaluk - Cranbrook

Violet Allcorn - Duncan
A.J. Poole - Duncan

John Fiddes - Kamloops
Jean Schneider - Kamloops

C. Dewhurst - Kelowna
A.T. Grinder - Kelowna

H. Kottilla - Ladysmith

H.L. Moore - Langley

J. Lessard - Nanaimo
L. Scheldrup - Nanaimo

Harold Cole - Nelson
Joseph Fox - Nelson

W.D. Black - New Westminster
E. Donald - New Westminster
J.A. Fleming - New Westminster
H. Klassen - New Westminster
C.D. Sim - New Westminster

M. Doray - North Vancouver
J. Sperandeo - North Vancouver

J. Smith - Penticton
W. McKinnon - Penticton

Myrtle Jones - Port Alberni
Mae Phelan - Port Alberni

Rose Oxbury - Powell River
Dick Gardner - Powell River

Olive Christie - Prince George
Betty Leach - Prince George

J. Ballard - Vancouver
H. Carden - Vancouver
K. Cowan - Vancouver
H. Duff - Vancouver
P. Forsha - Vancouver
A. Jeffery - Vancouver
J. Lawson - Vancouver
J. Murray - Vancouver
A. Paterson - Vancouver
J. Robertson - Vancouver
P. Sevin - Vancouver
C. Steele - Vancouver

W.H. Phelps - Vernon
A. Tetz - Vernon

George Wall - Cobble Hill
(Victoria)

CHILLIWACK GENERAL HOSPITAL

The Hospital Guardian is pleased to welcome this article from our Chilliwack Unit, - first because it establishes a precedent (a characteristic of Local 180) inasmuch as it is the first major item from an out-of-town Unit.

The second reason - well, many of the old-timers will say deep down in their hearts, - "those are our sentiments" because it is well for the younger, newer employees of this Unit to be reminded that conditions such as we enjoy now, did not always exist at V.G.H.

If anyone doubts the benefits of Local 180, here is the answer, not only in terms of money, but in more leisured living, in added security, and a most advanced pension plan. We would like to thank our fellow members in Chilliwack for a very fine presentation of our own thoughts along these lines.

- - - - -

WHAT OUR UNION HAS DONE FOR US.

By the Employees of Chilliwack General Hospital.

Before our Unit was organized, we were having a tough struggle. Employees were working split shifts, putting in forty-eight hours a week; some employees worked two and three weeks (one in particular worked six weeks) without a day off. No Statutory holidays were granted. The wages were disgracefully low, but what could a lay employee do without a Union to back him up?

Then on Oct. 14, 1948 the day dawned and the sun began to shine. We shall ever be grateful to Bro. W.H. Black, Bro. A. Paterson and Bro. C. Jenkinson for the effort they made to organize our Unit, and bring to us, better rates of pay, hours of work, Statutory Holidays, sick leave provisions, vacations with pay, overtime and seniority; no split shifts, at first a forty-four hour week and finally a forty hour, five day week. We believe the Hospital is getting better service, as we are happy in our work.

By the way, plans are really going ahead for a new addition to the Hospital. The City and Municipal Council have accepted the by-law of \$844,000 which will be put to a vote sometime in May 1955.

Signed "S.M. Tucker"
Secretary.

YOUR CREDIT UNION

The annual meeting was held last month, with a very good turnout.

3% dividend declared on all shares; 5% rebate on all paid up loans.

The Directors from the VGH are - -
H. Carden, C. Oldham, A. Fleming,
C. Jenkinson.
Supervisory Committee, Hugh Duff.
Credit Committee-A. Paterson,
C. Jenkinson.

This comprises a very good representation on all committees.

The social part of the evening was very well attended, and everyone enjoyed themselves to the limit.

Your Credit Union committees are very appreciative of the coverage given by the Hospital Guardian in these past months, and a hearty vote of thanks is due the press committee for their efforts. Thanks a million fellas and gals!

H. Carden.

In any organization you will find someone who thinks he is right and everyone else wrong; a poor organizer, a good dis-organizer; always has something on somebody.

There is an old adage that applies to this person - -

"What Peter says about Paul tells more about Peter than it does about Paul."

SPRING DANCE

Saturday, May 14. Mark that date on your calendar.

At 9 p.m. of that night you may have the time of your life, dancing again to Frankie McPhaler's toe-tapping music in the Lions Gate Hall.

Yes, your Social Committee has done it again. The last dance was such a success they have been asked time and again for another night of fun. This time they hope it will be even more enjoyable; also, there is another reason.

As you know by now, Softball season has started and your committee liked the idea of helping out the VGH Men's & Girl's team in some small way. Funds are always needed for equipment, expenses, etc. This is one way of supporting and backing your team to win.

They did well last year, and this year, with your support, they will do even better; they want it and deserve it.

Besides having an enjoyable evening, you can boost the morale of the softball players. They deserve it in view of their record last year. Don't forget, they are all VGH workers, so let's make it a BIG SUCCESS.

Tickets to the dance will be 75¢ each, proceeds go to the team. Door prizes & spot prizes, novelty hats. The team will also have a raffle to be drawn at the dance.

Come one and all; bring your friends. Let's make it a Gala Nite.

UNIONS ARE DEMOCRATIC

Glancing through the paper the other night, I came across the question on the Labour Forum, "Is the closed shop democratic?" Should it be legally enforced in collective agreements?" Some of the arguments against such an idea came from a man who is well known in B.C. politics the Hon. H.H. Stevens. He should have known better than to write such idiotic nonsense.

The fight for freedom is an unending struggle against official tyranny in its various forms. Mr. Stevens describes autocratic control of labour unions by a handful of executive officials who have successfully developed a self perpetuating system for retaining the control of their various positions. In the first place all officials are elected by a democratic vote of all members in the union.

The key to the trend, according to H.H. Stevens is the check-off and the closed shop, which is one of the fundamentals that is taking away the liberty and freedom of the workers. Such nonsense from a man who held public office at one time and could have done a great deal to help the workers at that time, but did not. Records speak for themselves.

All labour unions at this moment are trying to get as many members as possible to come to the meetings so that it will be run as democratically as possible, but it seems that a good many of us, like our friend Harry, are just interested in paydays and holidays, and I can say at this time that if it were not for our unions in the labor field we would not have many of those.

A well organized labor union preserves the democratic way of thinking, protects the worker in the field of endeavor he chooses, and also protects the employer in his business, acting in accordance to agreements that are signed by both parties. We do not take the place of the employer over employee, as stated. Our employers can fire or suspend their workers if they do not hold with satisfaction, the position that they are employed at.

Let us hold with the theory that we are doing a good job and that we are protecting our workers, and at the same time our bosses. When it comes down to brass tacks we are the first ones to protect our country by trying to make democracy live.

CHARLIE STEELE

DIGNITY, PRESTIGE and INTEGRITY

I wish all the members of Local 180 could realize the respect with which our organization is held by those with whom we have dealings. This respect has been built up over the years by our representatives, our Business Manager, by our executives, and at our annual conventions, by our delegates. They have exemplified by their deportment, the dignity and integrity which can be expected by all those who do business with organized labor in general, and Local 180 in particular.

Labor is often caricatured as a great hulking beast, of dirty unkempt appearance, usually wielding a big club. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our representatives are invariably well dressed, of good appearance, who do business always with tact and consideration. This is necessarily so, because they are constantly conferring with some of the best minds in the country, community leaders, the legal profession and cabinet ministers. Through the efforts of our representatives we have a reputation for reasonable and honest dealing. They have made our word our bond, and withal we are respected as a real power in the economic life of the Province.

I well remember at last year's convention, when we went to the city of Penticton, which is a very popular convention city, we were welcomed by Mayor Matson on the opening day. I wondered as I heard him give us the "freedom of his city", whether he had any qualms as he addressed one of the few labor groups to convene there. There was no doubt whatsoever at the end of our convention when he spoke again at our banquet. He spoke with glowing sincerity of our dignified conduct throughout our stay in his city. Knowing these things, we can be proud of Local 180.

Let us remember Local 180 is made up of individuals, you, and I, and every member, is part of this great organization and it should be the aim of every one of us to enhance our standing in the community. How? Very simply. At work, let us always be neat, clean, cheerful and willing workers, prepared to do a full eight hours work for eight hours pay. Let us always remember that a misdemeanour committed by one of us reflects on Local 180 as a whole, and we lose face. Let us keep our part of the contract as the employer keeps his. Any abuse of our privileges, sick leave, coffee breaks, etc., causes our organization loss of prestige. Not only at work, but wherever we go, let us remember to conduct ourselves with dignity, dress with care and thus build prestige for our organization, and in this way we shall make more friends for Local 180.

HUGH DUFF.