

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

REGISTERED NURSES WANTED... Immediate openings for full-time nurses with minimum two years recent O.R. experience. Hospital computer skills essential. State license required. Knowledge of X-ray and routine lab procedures are assets. Competitive salary and generous benefit package.

What would Florence Nightingale make of this? Well, for one thing, right off the bat she would ask, "What's a computer?" But would she recognize what she started - nursing?

History says that Flossie, who died in 1910, was "the high-born lady who carried the lamp of hospital reform; the nurse whose selfless devotion brought comfort, and often life, to thousands of sick and wounded British soldiers; the tireless woman who single-handedly transformed nursing from a lowly thankless chore to a skilled and respected profession."

How's that for a great bio? But there is more. Although not this column's point, it wouldn't be fair to her memory not to surf through the puzzling later portion of her 90-year life.

At the age of 36 Nightingale came back from two years service in the Crimean war with a fine reputation but then spent the rest of her life in bed! From there she gave orders to be carried out by devoted followers...like organiz-

What would Florence Nightingale think?

ing the Army Medical Department; educating India to sanitation; founding a nurses' training school; publishing "Notes on Nursing;" and consulting on hospital libraries and the best color for hospital walls (pale pink, it speeds recovery.)

She always stressed one thing: "The very first requirement in a hospital is that it should do the sick no harm." And for such advice there came to her bedroom a line of cabinet ministers, generals and doctors. She saw them all.

The symptoms causing her continual prone position were attacks of breathlessness, palpitation, giddiness and acute anxiety. Today psychiatrists believe her problems were all in her head. They call it "profound psychoneurosis," when the mind tricks the body to display ailments when they best serve the person's interests. One said, "Florence Nightingale is perhaps the best textbook case of the phenomenon."

Another doctor added later, "Of one thing I am quite sure, I should not have liked to be the doctor who tried to explain to Miss Nightingale the nature of her illness."

All that be as it may (and what a long intro to my point) Flossie today would be perplexed by much more than a hospital computer. The original question stands: "Would she recognize what she started?"

Probably not. For one thing, those neat starched white caps and white uniforms are long gone, replaced by various colored clothing items - including stone-washed

jeans - in combinations that must be seen to be believed. (I always felt that pure white image inspired trust. Sort of like an angel?)

Data entry clerks from billing look neater than most nurses do today. And they talk more quietly in the corridors. Nurses, who are now unionized here, tend to communicate with each other at fairly high decibel levels, even in surroundings calling for hushed tones.

Last night's date is recounted in detail, usually near the top of their vocal scale, never mind that Mrs. Jones is trying to sleep off her operation. And since our hospitals favor hard polished, surfaces any noise at all is magnified tenfold. (Hospitals in larger population centers now use hall carpeting and sound-dampening ceiling tile, but we do not seem to realize the sick require quiet.)

Granted the nursing profession has long been stained by overwork, hours that are not so hot, and pay that is hardly sensational for what they have to do and need to know. Their job requires considerable skill, acquired from long hours of training, and what's more, as a group they have long (and loudly) complained that they are under-appreciated by the healthcare system.

If this is true the system needs to wake up and smell the popcorn. Some nurses make it on their shifts and the buttery aroma wafts up and down the hall, even into Mrs. Jones's room where she is still trying to get some sleep.

Flossie would have put a stop to that for sure!

LETTERS

S.P.C.A. warns about 'Christmas Puppy'

Dear Editor:

A few toys are always broken before Christmas day is over. The Christmas puppy, treated like a toy, oft times has the same fate.

Preparing a child for a new animal is every bit as necessary as preparing them for the arrival of a new brother or sister. A helpless living creature is joining the family who must be cared for, loved, and not discarded when Christmas day is over.

The S.P.C.A. of Luzerne County feels that it is best to introduce a new member of the family on an ordinary day when it can best fit in with normal everyday living and the family has time to give it

the attention it needs. By introducing the Christmas puppy or kitten several days before Christmas, a little of the element of surprise may be lost, but overall gains in kindness and responsibility can be made. The necessary inoculations, and worming if needed should be done before the puppy is brought home. Food should be bought ahead of time and thought given to where and how house training is to take place.

A new puppy or kitten usually requires about a week to adjust to family living under normal conditions. The extra care becomes easy and routine and does not seem a burden once the family

becomes accustomed to it.

Make the Christmas pet a well-planned family affair. And if you are a loving aunt or uncle or grandparent, please, please don't give the beloved child in the family a pet without the agreeable parental permission. There is no greater source of family discord on Christmas than when a puppy or kitten is forced upon a group neither emotionally or physically prepared for an animal and very unfair to an already overworked mother whose family is not yet ready to accept such responsibility.

Edward Gross, Manager
S.P.C.A. of Luzerne County

Red Cross has important gift idea for season

Editor:

Not sure what to give this holiday season? How about life? Please give blood at an upcoming area blood drive.

Miracles happen when you give blood. All it takes is a little less than a pint of blood, to work this miracle for life. Donated blood is given to people in need, in emergency situations and during planned surgical procedures, both in and out of hospital settings.

And there's a life to be saved right now. In fact, in the time it takes to read this letter, about half-dozen people in our country will have needed a blood transfusion. Every two seconds someone

in our country needs a blood transfusion.

Who are these people who need blood? Perhaps a teen severely injured in a car accident...maybe a baby born premature...a recent retiree afflicted with cancer...or perhaps a grandparent undergoing open heart surgery or hip replacement surgery.

Snowstorms, colds and the flu are all uncontrollable factors that can contribute to blood shortages during the holiday season. In addition, because of the greater potential for car accidents and other emergencies, hospitals can experience an even greater demand for type O Positive and O

Negative blood, the universal blood type.

To be eligible to give blood, you must be 17 years old, weigh 105 pounds, and be in generally good health. Also there is no upper age limit for donating blood.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to give blood, please call the Wyoming Valley Chapter at 832-7161, ext. 33.

Please give blood...it's a gift only you can give. Isn't it time for you to work a miracle?

Maureen Jordan
Blood Service Director
832-7161, ext. 33

Lake-Lehman taxpayers should pay attention

Editor:

Would your newspaper allow me the opportunity to bring up some important items that are being discussed at the Lake-Lehman School Directors meetings. Negotiations for a new teachers contract are about to commence. A strange part of the negotiations are that the negotiator for the union's wife is on the payroll of Lake-Lehman. Does this sound like a conflict?

Next, they are about to start selling the idea that another new school is needed in this school district. Your taxes were increased 23 mills last budget for the early retirement of teachers. If the board caves into the demands of the teachers again plus starts the process of a new school watch out. We are going to get walloped with anywhere from a 30 to 50 mill tax increase.

My advice to the citizens of this

school district better start getting out to the district meetings quick.

Robert Allardyce,
Shavertown

Editor's Note: Marilyn Glogowski, who is a teacher at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School, is married to Walter Glogowski, who is employed by the Pennsylvania State Education Association.



60 Years Ago - Dec. 24, 1936

NEEDY CHILDREN GET TOYS

Thanks to the generosity of the scores of people who responded to The Post's annual appeal for toys for needy children this week some 200 children will be happier tomorrow. Part of the burden of the task was assumed this year by Dallas Women's Club which distributed toys to children who attended the Christmas party in the high school.

Prospects of new business activity along Main Street, Dallas, shortly after the first of the year seemed likely this week as reports of several impending deals gained momentum. One of the major improvements schedule is the razing of the building now occupied by Stanley Marat's garage and the erection of a modern brick structure to take its place.

50 Years Ago - Dec. 27, 1946

AMERICAN STORES CO. ADOPTS RETIREMENT PLAN

Stockholders of the American Stores Co. meeting Dec. 16 overwhelmingly adopted an Employees Retirement Plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide regular income benefits for employees after retirement from American Stores, Acme Super Markets, and other subsidiary companies. Normal retirement will be between age 65 and 70, earlier if the Company approves.

Friends and neighbors paused during the busy Christmas season to pay final respects to Joseph B. Schooley who died Saturday morning following a heart at-

Kingston Township within the next few days to determine whether the 35 mile speed limit signs erected by Kingston Township supervisors are legal. Kline said yesterday in an interview with The Dallas Post that there are areas in the built-up business sections of the township where 35 mile limits and even 25 mile limits are legal. Presently 35 mile limits prevail with State approval on Pioneer Avenue, Carverton Road, and Center Street in Shavertown.

tack at his home on Harris Hill. Joseph was the third of his line to cultivate the farm nestled against Harris Hill in Kingston Township where services were conducted by his old friend, Rev. Harry Savacool, assisted by his pastor Rev. George Roberts of Trucksville Methodist Church.

40 Years Ago - Dec. 21, 1956

BILL BLOCKED PASSAGE

Efforts of Sen. Harold E. Flack to have a bill passed by the State Legislature that would require the Housing Authority of Luzerne County to pay taxes on Meadowcrest and Fairview, its two housing developments in Luzerne County, cannot be obtained without endangering other housing developments in the State according to an opinion of the State Department of Justice.

William Kline, Safety Engineer of the State Department of Highways has promised to make a survey of highway conditions in

30 - Dec. 22, 1966

KINGSTON TWP. SEEKS LAND FOR RECREATION

The Kingston Township Planning Commission will check sites for the purchase of recreational land under the Proposed Project 70, Chairman LaRoy Ziegler announced at a meeting of Kingston Township Supervisors Wednesday evening. The board met with the planning body recently and

also discussed the problem of billboards.

Richard Ide, 1949 Lehman High School graduate was sworn in Tuesday evening at the December meeting of the Lake-Lehman School Board, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dan Shaver earlier this month. Mr. Ide of Idetown is with Air Products.

You could get - Smoked hams, 59¢ lb.; turkeys over 18 lbs., 39¢ lb.; lettuce, 2 hds., 29¢; mixed nuts, 1 lb. pkg. 49¢; Maxwell House Coffee, 1 lb. can 85¢; onions, 3 lb. bag 29¢.

20 Years Ago - Dec. 23, 1976

ARNOLD GARINGER BEGINS SECOND TERM

Lake-Lehman School Board President Arnold Garinger began his second term of office last Tuesday night with a promise "to continue to try to keep politics out of our school system. Let politicians play games with highways and apartment buildings, and non-living things that can't feel pain," he advised "but we must continue to refuse to let them play games with the education of our young people."

Tony Bonomo Sr., owner of Crown Imperial Lanes, will not have his new roller skating rink open for Christmas. Bonomo stated that the unusually cold and inclement weather had delayed work on the building, but if no other problems occurred it should be completed by February.

J & J Deli

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