

Alumnae Group Dates From First Graduates

WHEN THE FIRST CLASS of nurses was graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in 1911, Sister Rose Alice, Administrator, talked with them about forming an Alumnae Association.

Always encouraging St. Joseph's Hospital to go forward, Sister Rose Alice thought it best for the graduates to have their own Alumnae Association and become members of their professional organizations. The nurses also desired to have an alumnae association. Sister counseled them and helped in every way possible. She talked with the late Dr. Darling place to hold a banquet and through him Sister was able to give the first banquet for the members of the Alumnae at the Country Club in September 1911.

Miss Lena MacInerney was elected first president with Catherine Sullivan as Secretary-Treasurer.

This object of the alumnae was to promote loyalty to the School and sister nurses; to promote educational advancement in the nursing profession; for social and economic purposes and for good fellowship.

Now in its fiftieth year, St. Joseph's Hospital has grown and expanded and is expanding more and more. This growth has made it possible for the School of Nursing to increase enrollment each year. With larger classes being graduated annually, the Alumnae has increased from a membership of four in 1911, to a membership of 596 in 1958.

The Alumnae gives a banquet and dance each year for the graduating class and a tea for the Nuns. The Association sponsors a Harvest Supper in the Fall honoring the hospital Sisters. Annually, a graduate is presented the St. Joseph's Hospital Alumnae Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice. The Alumnae furnished a fund in the Sturges building and a fund for a substantial sum in the last building and drive.



Sister Florence and Miss Madeline Ruddick, alumnae president, look over new year-book, the Altitan.



Sister William Andrew checks laboratory research project.

Rampaging Chemung River

THE YEAR OF 1946 stands out in St. Joseph's history as one of heart-breaking tragedy—a year which cannot be forgotten as long as

even one individual remembers who witnessed the havoc that resulted from the flood which broke unexpectably upon the city.

On May 28 the waters of the Chemung River, rising at the rate of eight inches in ten minutes, broke through the dyke, completely inundating the surrounding areas. There was no warning, and the river section of the city found itself wholly submerged. The flood beat down in "one night" upon the field hospital before in Elmira, but none so devastating.

THE GREATEST DAMAGE was suffered by St. Joseph's Hospital. The main-heating water power, which by noon the hospital was without electric power, heating and telephone service.

The loss of food, medicines, and surgical dressings of all kinds stored at basement level, was very great. In the Dunn Memorial Nurses' Residence, flood water caused extensive damage to the cafeteria, auditorium and all basement areas. The elevators in both the hospital and the Nurse Residence were out of order.

A group of Elmira Redemptary friends immediately set to work in cleaning the basement, removing flood-damaged food, and furnishing about fifty tons of sodden public school material at a complete loss of \$10,000. City firemen and policemen, Sisters from the local convents, and hundreds of other friends came to the assistance of the hospital personnel.

IN THE RESTORATION program the Elmira community responded in a truly noble manner. The Twain Hotel prepared meals for patients and offered its laundry facilities to St. Joseph's after the day's work at the hotel was done. The Arnot Ogden Memorial Hospital also prepared food.

Public utility companies worked ceaselessly to get the gas and electric service restored, and this was happily accomplished in two days. Heat was entirely lacking for several days, making necessary the installation of a temporary heating system for substitute for the three completely submerged boilers.

Dear Sister Margaret Adelaide: I send cordial greetings to you, to the Sisters of St. Joseph's, and to all associated with St. Joseph's Hospital, as you celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of your splendid institution.

You can all take great pride and warm satisfaction in the skillful and tender care that St. Joseph's has given to the ill and the unfortunate during the past half century. God speed your good work in the years ahead.

Sincerely,
Averell Harriman
Governor

RAY LINDIE

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