

They Do Other Operating at Elmira Hospital

By CLEORAL LOVELL
 Elmira — Switchboard operators perform a vital function in every hospital. Telephone lines are a network which ties the departments together, saving precious time. St. Joseph's Hospital pays tribute to two operators whose service records are outstanding.

Miss Catherine Powers began wearing headphones at the hospital in September 1937. In those days the operators alternated shifts. Sister Joan Francis, Sister M. Regina and Sister Rose Clare served as relief operators on Sundays and holidays and when the regular operators were ill. Miss Powers is now one of the 7-3 switchboard operators.

On May 27, 1947, when the Chemung River began rising rapidly to flood stage, the pharmacy department, physical therapy department and dietary kitchen were located below ground level. By the following morning valuable stores of food and medical supplies were lost because all six elevators were inoperable.

Miss Powers remembers trying to reach the hospital. She



WHAT'S MY LINE? — Pictured are veteran telephone switchboard operators at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, whose combined service totals nearly a half-century. Mrs. Louise Lown (left) is ready to relieve Miss Catherine Powers.

water in the Dunn Memorial Auditorium swirled three feet deep.

The patient census was 178. The boiler-room was inundated, cutting off heat and hot water supplies. Rallying to the aid of St. Joseph's were the Arnot-Ogden Memorial Hospital and the Mark Twain Hotel. The latter offered their laundry facilities. The kitchens of both were made available for preparing meals to be served at St. Joseph's.

Miss Powers reported for work before the telephone service was restored. She recalls that anyone who could be spared carried messages to all parts of the buildings.

There have been two new larger switchboards installed during Miss Powers' 31½ years of service. The present board requires two persons and a relief operator at all times except the 11-7 shift. From 4:30 until morning, when all the doors except the main entrance are locked, the operator has an additional responsibility. She con-

veys the button that opens the ambulance entrance door.

The most important part of the switchboard is the "Hot Line," used for emergency calls. These calls are not routed through the switchboard, but ring a special phone on the wall nearby. When this "Hot Line" rings, it takes priority. It is used, for example, in cases of cardiac arrest. When the operator receives such a call, she immediately announces the code call and room number. Minutes count in this emergency if a life is to be saved.

Paging persons and relaying messages is daily routine. Contacting necessary personnel during fires, fire drills, disasters and disaster drills is another facet of the operator's job.

Mrs. Louise Lown joined the staff of St. Joseph's in September 1951. She, too, alternated shifts early in her career, but is now on a regular 9-1 shift.

She told us that some of the questions she has been asked

were real surprises. People call sometimes asking the Mass schedule for St. John's Church on Lake Street. A hysterical mother once called asking what to do for her child who had swallowed perfume. Others simply give their children's symptoms and want advice. Patiently, Mrs. Lown tries to connect them with someone who can be of assistance.

One incident stands out in Mrs. Lown's recollections. She was on duty when a hurricane knocked out the electric power. She stayed at her post, striking matches to see to put calls through. She had burned her fingers and nearly ran out of matches before she found someone who would bring her a candle.

Probably the most excitement during her service happened the afternoon of Aug. 24, 1968, when the first of more than 80 patients began arriving. These persons were attending an outing and became victims of food

poisoning. Friends and relatives jammed the switchboard with calls trying to learn about the condition of the patients.

Mrs. Lown was also on duty when there was a fire in a nursing home and several badly burned patients were admitted.

Last January, in the Star-Gazette, Tom Page nominated Catherine Powers as "the pleasantest voice on the telephone."

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DAILY INTERVIEWS 9-5

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H-E-R-E'S BONNIE!—Members of Ladies Guild of St. Louis Parish, Pittsford, ready props for their "Bonnie Carson Show," slated at 8:15 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, April 21-22, at Pittsford Junior High School. Pictured from left are Mrs. Peter Crerand, Mrs. Raymond Blum, Mrs. Alex Bochetto, Mrs. John E. McCarthy (seated) and Mrs. John H. Coleman. Mrs. Paul Kircher is the director.

BOOK CORNER

Paperbacks for Spring

The Catholic Experience, by Andrew M. Greeley (Doubleday, \$1.25). A readable interpretation of the history of the Catholic Church in the United States from colonial times to the present.

Catholic Pentecostals, by Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan (Paulist, \$1.95). This is a history and an explanation of the neo-pentecostal movement among Catholics in the United States, and especially of the groups that have grown up in the U.S.—Notre Dame and Michigan State Universities.

The Chemical Religion by Peter Turkel (Paulist, \$1.45). This book gives the facts about the most used of today's dangerous drugs: LSD, marijuana, barbiturates, amphetamines, heroin, and a few others.

The Christian Critic Series (Herder and Herder, \$1.25). Essays on the important thinkers of our day. The series includes: Evelyn Waugh, edited by Robert Murray Davis; Graham Greene, edited by Henry Cergas; Gerard Manley Hopkins, edited by C. D. Scott and James F. Scott; Karl Barth, edited by James F. Andrews.

Christian Ethics, by David H. C. Read (Lippincott, \$2.45). Dr. Read reminds us that though the "extremists" get the headlines, the majority of Christian thinkers today are neither hopeless obscurantists, nor revolutionaries. He advocates a "dynamic middle."

For Adult Catholics Only, by Tad W. Guzi S.J. (Bancroft, \$1.75). A mature reflection on what it means to be a Catholic today.

Go in Peace: Four Celebrations in Preparation for Pentecost, by Gerard A. Pottebaum (Herder and Herder, \$1.50). Written for the 8-11 group.

Religion in Secular Society, by Brian Wilson (Penguin, \$1.65). A sociological and statistical study of the secularization process as it has occurred in the United States and England.

A Woman's Book of Prayers, by Rita F. Snowden (Association, \$2.50). For women of any denomination, Rita Snowden has written this book of prayers and carefully selected scripture readings to meet women's specific needs.

Club for 'Singles' CFM Official Schedules Dance To Give Talk

Prospective members of the St. Christopher Social Club — an organization of single Catholics whose main purpose is to encourage Christian companionship — will be entertained at a social and dance at 8 p.m. Sunday, April 20, at the Downtown Motor Inn, Broad Street and South Avenue.

Club membership is limited to single persons from 25 to 45 years of age. Headquarters are at St. Michael's Church, 869 Clinton Ave. n., and Father Benedict A. Ehmman, St. Michael's pastor, is club moderator.

Officers are John Shannon, president; Ray McIntyre, vice president; Arlene Snell, secretary; and Rose Marie Zepetella, treasurer.

Shannon said the club is planning a Memorial Day weekend in New York City, leaving Thursday and returning Sunday.

Members of the Christian Family Movement in the Rochester area will hear a talk by the assistant national director of the CFM movement at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, at St. John Fisher College.

He is Father Edward Kohler, dean of St. Paul Preparatory Seminary in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

A celebrated Mass will follow Father Kohler's talk and discussion.

CFM has nearly 25 parish groups in the diocese. Founded in the mid-west 20 years ago, it enrolls husbands and wives for discussion of issues of neighborhood, family and marital life.

Family Rosary

The Family Rosary for Peace program is broadcast each evening at 7 p.m. by Rochester radio station WSAV, WMBO-FM in Auburn, television cable companies Channel 5 in Hornell, Channel 8 in Elmira and 88.75 mc. in Corning. Those who will lead in recitation of the Rosary this week are:

Friday, April 18 — Dominic Critelli of St. Theodore's

Saturday, April 19 — Mass will be celebrated.

Sunday, April 20 — Fred J. Wolff of St. Thomas More.

Monday, April 21 — Father Leo Mans of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, accompanied by the Knights of St. John.

Thursday, April 24 — Leo Eckert of St. Andrew's, with the Holy Name Society.

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Aquina Prep

Expectations run high for Aquinas as its track team prepares to run in the P. Relays tomorrow, April 19, to compete against East next Tuesday.

Coach (Father) Donny will rely on a bevy of experienced seniors and a crop of enthusiastic juniors sophomores.

Heading the list of returning seniors are Jack Drop, Jim Becker, spirit speaker. They will be supported by running of juniors Rick Dave Riley and John M. along with Mike Paltu, promising sophomore.

Neil Duffy, the teaming quarter miler last year, is looking for another top performance. Tom LeBeau and Dan N. a pair of speedy sophomores have been outstanding in the middle distance event. The Irish will be full in the 880 with Jim and Mike Maginn carry scoring load and backer Steve Izzo.

Outstanding distance runners include Paul Ford, Jim Ford, Tom Bachman at Cramer, all returning with considerable experience. Freshman are Jack Chuck Bachman and E. Always strong in the events, Aquinas will be Tom LeBeau and Mark in the long jump and I case in the triple jump. Sextone has impressed high jump. Senior Jim

Scouts 'Report At War Memorial

The arena and exhibit the Community War Memorial will be taken over this by the Boy Scouts for report on their progress Monroe County.

More than 300 exhibit demonstrations will be by 8,000 scouts of a from the eight-year-old through the high school plerors. All of the 19, registered with the Council have been sell tickets for the show runs from 7 until 10 and from 2 until 10 to

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