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Section Two
Sixteen Pages

The Indianapolis Times

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1948

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Photos by Henry E. Glesing Jr., Times Staff Photographer.

By JEAN MANEY

SPRIGS OF HOLLY, Riley's poems and five "good Samaritans" . . . that was the beginning of St. Margaret's Hospital Guild.

At Christmas in 1906, five young women, members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, decided to help alleviate some of the bleakness of a holiday season in the hospital. They copied cheery verses by James Whitcomb Riley on little cards and decorated them with sprigs of live holly. Then they personally distributed the cards in all the Indianapolis hospitals.

The five Samaritans were Mrs. William F. Mullen, who later became first president of the guild; Mrs. Fred C. Schnabel, Ardmore, Pa.; Mrs. Alf Duggan, Bethlehem, Pa.; Mrs. Georganna Ashby, Ft. Wayne, and Miss Emily Gibney, California. Net result of the feeling of "Merry Christmas" throughout the wards of the hospitals—the founding of the guild. Today the organization has a limited membership of 60 active members and supports the Children's Ward, the occupational therapy departments, the Flower Mission and the human milk station, all at General Hospital.

The members of St. Margaret's Hospital Guild give their time, talent and money to the projects. The guild also is supported by the Indianapolis Foundation and donations from private citizens. A Christmas dance, held traditionally on the first Saturday in December, is the guild's most important fund-raising activity. Mrs. Mark W. Enright is general chairman of this year's dance to be given Saturday in the Indianapolis Athletic Club. She is pictured going over last-minute details of the dance with Mrs. Charles J. Gisler, ticket chairman, and Mrs. Robert C. Burnett, program chairman.

Patients Receive Holiday Gifts

From St. Margaret's Members

Incubators for premature babies are gifts from the guild to the General Hospital. Miss Mildred Funk, R. N., demonstrates an incubator to two new guild members, Mrs. Edward B. Raub Jr. and Mrs. Richard W. Power. The most recent guild project, the human milk station, also is used for the premature babies. The members provide funds to purchase the milk, machines to process it and a deep freeze unit to preserve it.

Mrs. John R. Brayton, membership chairman, and Mrs. Harold L. Mercer, hospital chairman, are swamped with dolls and toys (gifts for young patients) that must be wrapped by Dec. 25. Mrs. Albert Dickinson Smith and Mrs. Francis A. Sommer are cutting pajamas for use in the children's ward. Guild members provide the patterns and material and cut the garments. The actual sewing is done by inmates of the Women's Prison.

The Contributions Committee solicits help each year by letters sent to local persons interested in the work of St. Margaret's Hospital Guild. Mrs. Larry Willson and Mrs. William F. Sandmann, co-chairmen of the committee, have their hands full sending out requests for aid and writing "thank you" notes to generous donors. Occupational therapy is recognized as a vital factor in recovery. The departments at General Hospital and Flower Mission are financed by the guild.

**Mobile Movie Projector Provided
For Patients by the Guild**

At Flower Mission the work room is complete with tools, wood working machines and raw materials. Russell Thatcher, a patient at Flower Mission, is working on a graded activity program leading to discharge. He's made several objects including a ship complete with life boats and smoke stacks and a miniature derrick. Mrs. Oscar Perine and Mrs. Merritt Fields watch Mr. Thatcher's technique with the mechanical saw.

The guild purchased a mobile movie projector which can be carried all over the hospital. Mrs. Frederic D. Norris, chairman of occupational therapy; Mrs. Robert Stith, president of the guild, and Miss Edna Faeser, O. T. R., director of occupational therapy, watch the projector in action.

Time spent on duty in the children's ward is considered a privilege not a duty by the 60 "good Samaritans." Mesdames L. Roy Ford Sr., W. W. Peet and John Sloane Smith help Wilma Lancaster and Sandra Kay Roberts forget that they're sick and remember that they're loved.

MRS. JOHN R. BRAYTON AND MRS. HAROLD L. MERCER

MRS. WILLIAM F. SANDMANN AND MRS. LARRY WILLSON

MISS MILDRED FUNK, MRS. EDWARD B. RAUB JR.
AND MRS. RICHARD W. POWER

MRS. ALBERT DICKINSON SMITH AND MRS. FRANCIS A. SOMMER

RUSSELL THATCHER, MRS. OSCAR PERINE AND
MRS. MERRITT FIELDS

