

Visiting Nurses Provides Patients With Needed Care

By Wally Trabing

Ask a mountain climber why he goes to the often injurious and exhaustive trouble of climbing a mountain peak and he'll give you the answer: "because it's there!"

Ask a member of the Santa Cruz Visiting Nurses team why they work for a minimum of pay at a tedious task of calling from home to home to tend the sick and ailing and they'll answer simply: "because it has to be

done and someone has to do it."

The objective of the Visiting Nurses association is this — to provide professional nursing care where it is needed on an hourly basis at a price anyone can afford.

Its staff numbers four, Mrs. Norma Post, director; Mrs. Edna Manger, Mrs. Margaret Soderholm, and Miss Dorothy Bruce. All are registered nurses.

They work for an association which is non profit and an agency of the community chest. They are supported not only by the Chest, but by fees, memberships and gifts.

Mrs. Post, who has been with the association since its beginning, February, 1947, said their services are divided into two main categories.

The first is called "full care" and includes an hour or more administering to patients confined to their beds — bathing them, changing sheets, massaging ailing muscles, etc.

The second service is the administering of hypodermic shots which usually takes some 15 minutes.

Charges are regulated according to the individual's ability to pay. "We expect to be paid in full when the patient is financially able.

"Hypodermic service runs \$1.50 per shot. Full care charges run \$3 per hour to nothing," said Mrs. Post.

This kind of nursing allows many patients who would otherwise be confined to hospitals, nursing homes, and rest homes, to remain in their own homes.

Their case loads are made up mostly of stroke cases, cancer, diabetes and arthritis patients whose ages are past the 50 year mark.

Their house to house calls in May included 163 hypo calls and 118 full-care calls by three nurses. In April 595 visits were made, 240 for shots and 275 for full care.

"Despite the fact the nurses in the hospital have the doctors to rely on in an emergency and that it is much more tiring trudging from home to home, the visiting nurses are very much under paid. We would like to bring the pay up to the minimum pay scale of hospital nurses," said Mrs. Post. "All of us could go into hospital nursing in a minute at a higher salary, but once you get into this work you become keenly conscious of what must be done.

"It is rather difficult to ob-

tain nurses for this association.

It simply boils down to having to have someone to do the job," she said.

There have been improvements over the years. Now they work an eight-hour day and a five-day week, except in the cases of emergency. They receive a month's vacation each year with pay.

The idea for such an association began in England in the 19th century. In Victoria's time they were called "Sisters of the Queen."

It spread to the United States eventually and across the states. According to Mrs. Post there is no national association. All the chapters are independent of each other.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Leask and a group of their friends brought the association into existence in 1947 and underwrote it for its first year.

An office was opened at Hackley hall as non-payment guests of the American Red Cross, according to Mrs. Post.

In 1950 it established headquarters at 125 Mission street, across from the County Health department, and next to the county TB association.

In 1947 its budget amounted to \$968 and 1077 calls were made. The budget grew with the years as did the number of visits.

In 1956 the four nurses made 6331 visits, working with a budget of \$16,542. Mrs. Post said that \$9961 of this included fees for the visits and \$415 from memberships which amount to \$2 or more.

In 1956, \$6164 was received from the Community Chest.

Mrs. Post figures that with their four nurses they have just about reached their saturation point in visits. They maintain some 150 persons on their books.

"In many cases the nurses are the only contact the patients have with the outside world. This is another value we give, even if it is not a part of the service.

"We are given all the welfare cases that come out of the hospital. This again proves our reason for being — someone has to help those people."

Behind this association is a group of citizens which meets once a month to solve some of the association's problems.

The importance of the job being done can be somewhat adjudged by the distinguished citizens who are giving their time supporting it, as the governing board.

Officers of the group include: Richard P. Snyder, president; Mrs. Ford Shepherd, first vice president; James B. Leask, second vice president; Mrs. William A. Muriale, secretary; and William M. Carmean, treasurer.

The board of directors includes Mrs. J. C. Jacobson, Mrs. George Cardiff, Mrs. Robert Burton, George W. Castleberry, Miss Rose Rhein, J. H. Garrett, Mrs. Mack Heren, Mrs. Robert Bennett, Miss Nan L. Dorsey, and Mrs. L. H. Craig. Miss Dorsey was one of the original organizing group.

Santa Cruz' Angels Of Mercy



These ladies are what is known as visiting nurses who work for meager pay simply

because nurses are badly needed by those who cannot always pay. They are, from left, Miss

Dorothy Bunce, Mrs. Marge Soderholm, Mrs. Norma Post, and Mrs. Edna Manger.

Half-Million New Yorkers Have Attended Graham's Crusade

By George Cornell

New York (AP). — The gate count at Billy Graham's New York crusade today totaled more than half a million in four weeks, and the big-city folk still are hearing him nightly sands.

"During this first week," Graham said last night, "I have seen God do great things in this city."

The crusade evangelist says his best response to his preaching still has more to go. It's no exaggeration to say that the crusade is still in its infancy.

No other religious show — he said — has ever filled Madison Square Garden with such an audience. The turnout of thousands of people is a new thing in the city.

Attendance at the crusade today, the 200th day, was 16,929, a record for the city. It began with a small group of 100 people.

"Many people have come here for the first time," he said last night, "and have been so deeply moved that they have decided to turn their backs on the world and follow me."

"I've seen the bars, I've watched the amusements, I've searched out after the relief, with sad faces."

who strive desperately for what they think they want — riches, a career in Hollywood, a trip around the world — find that when they

HIROHITO'S FAVORITE WHITE HORSE DIES

Tokyo (AP). — Emperor Hirohito's favorite white horse, on which he was photographed countless times before and during World War II, died May 28 at the age of 23, it was learned today. The mount, Hatsu-yuki (First Snow), has been immortalized as a sacred horse at the Imperial Palace.

POWER MOWERS

SHARPENED . . . REPAIRED

—SOLD—

ALL CUTTING TOOLS SHARPENED

Opal Cliffs Hardware

1st Ave.

GR 5-1825