



Angels of Mercy

By Phyllis Badgley

I often go to Geiser Pollman Park to watch construction progress on the new bandstand that is set for completion in August. Last week while there, I chanced conversation with an out of state couple. I learned they had at one time spent a short interim in Baker City. They wished to recall the name of a nurse who lived across from St. Elizabeth hospital on Fourth street. I supplied the name immediately: Pagey Anderson, R.N., my long time neighbor.

After the visitors left, I remained seated and reviewed in thought, decades of other R.N.s whose career encompassed St. Elizabeth hospital. These now departed "Angels of Mercy" include in early years: Mary Curtiss R. N. and wife of mail carrier Bo Curtiss, mother of high priest Eldon Curtiss; Ma Paradise R.N. who successfully treated my dad when he developed Rocky Mountain tick fever; Bertha Murray R.N. Obstetric nurse, who over a span of 30 years, delivered hundreds of babies at St. Elizabeth hospital; Jean McEnroe R.N. whose nursing career was followed by her daughter, Mary Margaret who completed an admirable nursing career of her own; Gertrude Osborn R.N. on duty in 1940 era, and wife of police Chief Bill Osborn, and mother of current resident Alice (Mrs. Ralph Ward). Wally Brennan R. N. who tread the halls of St. Elizabeth on Fourth Street, and extended patient care at the new 1970 hospital on Pocahontas Road; Esther Higgins R.N. mother of eight children, wife of Dr. John Higgins, whose father Thomas Higgins was also a M.D. The Higgins established a clinic at Third and Washington streets. Elsie Adams R.N. who served as office nurse for Drs. Bartlett and Blakely; Zona Parker R.N. whose nursing career took her overseas in WW II, during which time she married F.B. Clark. Post war, the couple reared a fine family in outskirts of Baker City; Jayne Pollock R.N. wife of Dr. Robert Pollock, served duty at St. Elizabeth until retirement; Sue Erickson R.N. whose professionalism saved the life of my family member; Nell Peterson R.N. in O.B. department at the time my first child was born; Gertrude Yeakley R.N. Army Nurse who served in Pacific islands WW II, married Harry Yeakley and reared family in Baker City; Brenda Beatty R.N. whose duty centered in the surgical unit.

Remaining among us is Jo Snook Dickison, the sparkling, personable surgical nurse who spent decades on duty in the operating room at St. Elizabeth, where she exemplified efficiency and dedication of highest order.

My thoughts reviewed memories of the Catholic nuns who served faithfully at St. Elizabeth, both at the Fourth street location, and the new 1970 facility. Several nuns were in administrative positions. I recall in the 1940s: Sr. Lawrence, Sr. Patrick, Sr. Colma, Sr. Canis, Sr. Cuniberta, and Sr. Columba.

Nurses I recall in training, in 1944, at St. Elizabeth hospital include: Cregar, Lammert, Bennett, Myers, Buchanan and Shuck.

A nurses training school was established at St. Elizabeth hospital. The first 1941 class graduated eight nurses. During WW II, the Federal Government created the Cadet Nursing Corp. I enlisted in the program in 1943. After basic training in Tacoma, Wash., I assumed duty at local St. Elizabeth. Typical of that era, nurses were referred to by last name. My roommates were Culbertson and Thomas. After a year, circumstances shortened our career and we didn't earn R. N. status.

Culbertson is deceased, but I have continued a 70 year correspondence with Thomas. Nurses I recall in training, in 1944, at St. Elizabeth hospital include: Cregar, Lammert, Bennett, Myers, Buchanan and Shuck.

Doctors in practice I recall during that era were: Dr. C.J. Bartlett, Dr. Blakely, Dr. Houser, Dr. Roger Biswell, Dr. Flora Biswell, Dr. Carl Patterson, Dr. Thomas Higgins, later Dr. John Higgins, Menzie Mckim, and Dr. Palmer Mckim who treated me for suspected Polio. Sulfa drugs were introduced during the 1940s, followed by penicillin's effectiveness.

Within the time frame of 1960 and beyond, Baker medical Doctors included Dr. Robert Pollock, Dr. Gaylord Ward, Dr. Geo. Burns, Dr. Carl Kostol, Dr. Nowak.

I do not list names of doctors currently serving Baker City.

I write from memory, so apologies for errors in this article, or name omissions.

Bailey - Warren to Wed



Submitted photo

Anthony and Katherine Bailey of Baker City are pleased to announce the upcoming wedding of their daughter Amanda Lynn Bailey, to Arthur "Ritter" Warren, son of Art & Nancy Warren of Union, Ore. Amanda is also the daughter of Julie and Fred Hertel of Dallas, Ore. The wedding is scheduled to take place in Summerville, Ore., at the end of the month.

Amanda is about to start her junior year at Eastern Oregon University pursuing a degree in math. Ritter is a recent graduate from Eastern Oregon University and plans to pursue a career in parole and probation. The couple plans to reside in La Grande, Oregon while Amanda finishes her degree.

Celebrating 80 Years



Photo by Eden Taylor

The Tim L. Taylor family showed up 60 plus strong in numbers to be in the Miners Jubilee Parade. Tim turned 80 this year and all he wanted for his birthday was his family on a float - "Family is his Greatest Gold." Taylor has five children, 22 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren: "Taylor Gold is Reaching the World" as family traveled from Washington, Oregon, Utah, Missouri, Texas, California, Virginia, North Carolina and Cuba.

Nona Bell Duby (Wirth) Celebrating 100th Birthday

Nona Bell Duby (Wirth) who grew up in the Keating, Pondosa, and Cottage Groves areas will be turning 100 years old on July 28, 2015. She married Charles Duby and briefly lived in Klamath Falls before moving back to Keating to take over and run the Duby ranch. They improved the place from a livery stage stop that went through to Halfway into a cattle ranch. The couple raised nine children on the ranch before retiring and moving into Baker City to retire. Nona and her husband then enjoyed traveling and spent a considerable amount of time in Australia where Charles' brother lived. Nona continued living in Baker City until she moved to Imbler with her daughter, Dorothy Peacock, where she still resides and where her birthday celebration will be.

Nona is in good health and enjoys Ducks football, keeps up on politics and reads a book a month on average.

She is a great-great grandmother who can name nearly all her 50+ grandchildren (50+ because one was just born last week and more are on the way!)

As her husband Charles use to say, "Growing older is a privilege not everyone gets to experience."

And living to be 100 years is even rarer still! Happy Birthday, Nona!



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FRI-THURS (4:20) 7:20 9:35

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FRI-THURS (4:10) 7:10 9:45

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Baker City Lions Wins First

Past District Governor Gerald Hopkins visited the Baker City Lions Club, recognizing them for a story board winning first place in District G, and then at the state level. Baker City Lions designed the board with pictures and articles describing the many activities occurring during the 2014-15 year. He commented, "You should be proud to win this honor, with some outstanding competition from the other districts. You can use this board at your many community events to display what the club is doing in the community." As a part of the reward, the club was presented an "antique lamp" said to be one of three designed for Eleanor Roosevelt, but making its way to the Mohawk Historical Museum Society. Hopkins also gave the club a plaque representing the Light of Sharing, which will be passed to a new club in a year.

Submitted photo: Hopkins presents Bogart winner's plaque for Lions state story board competition





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