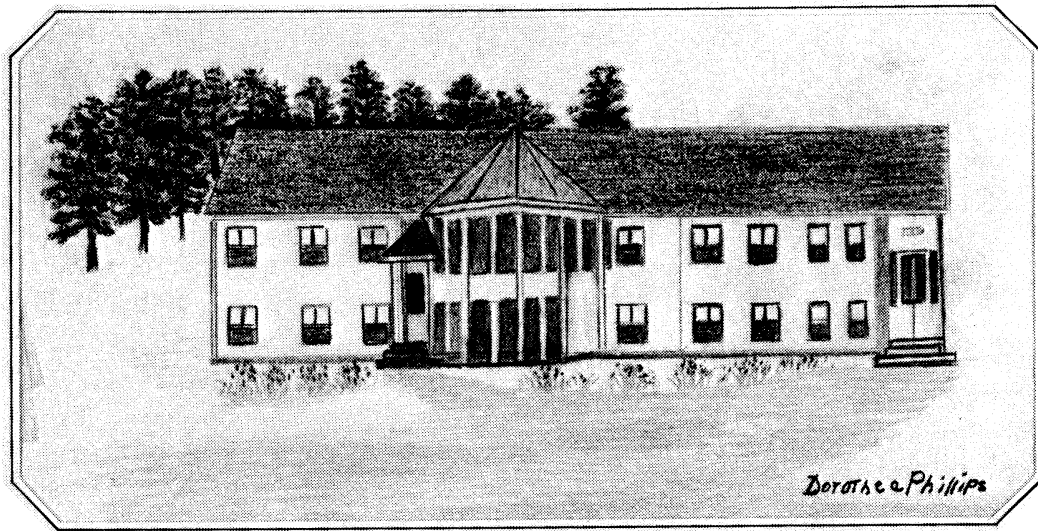


# STEWART MEMORIAL HEALTH CENTRE



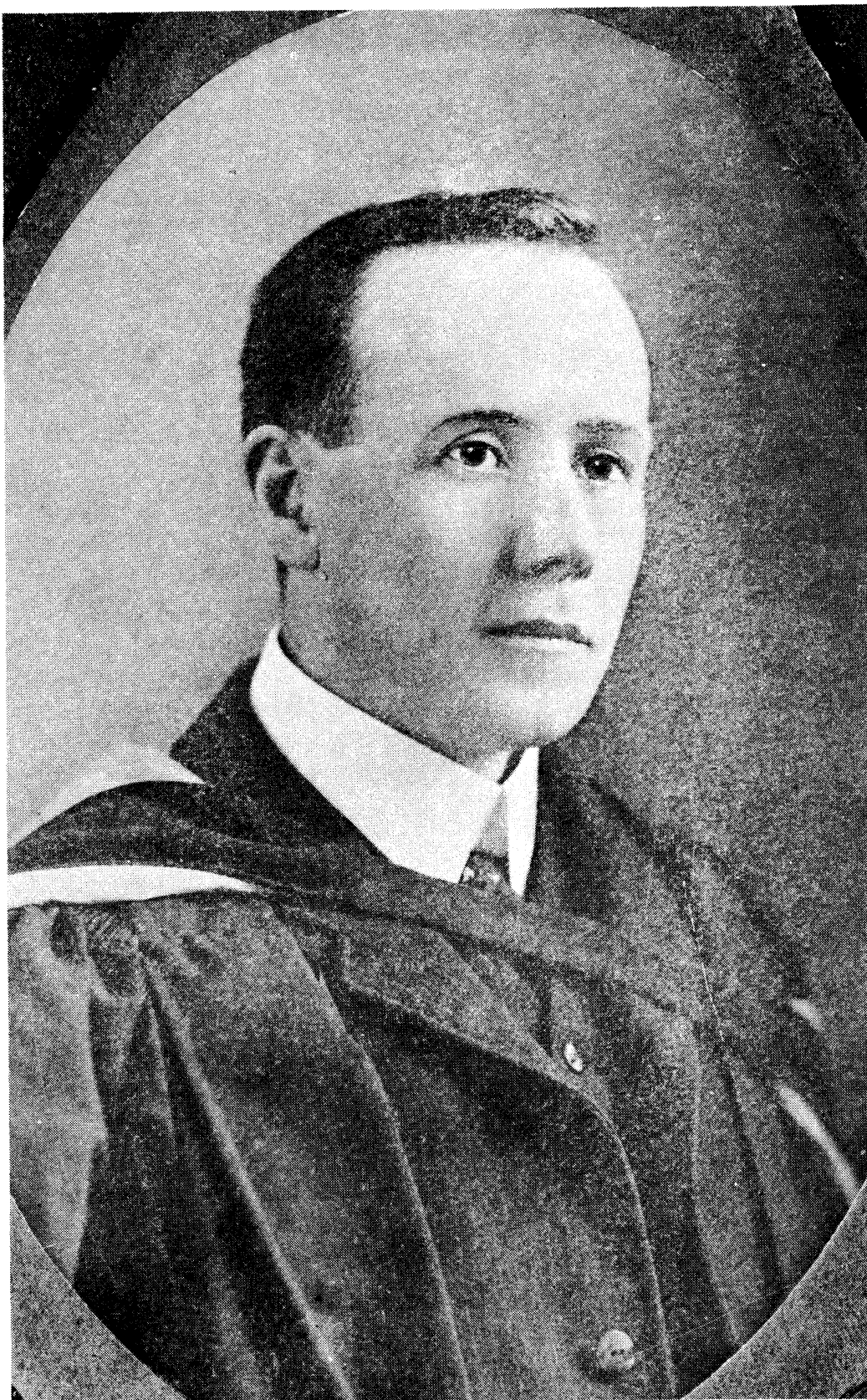
## A HISTORY

BY  
ALLAN GRAHAM

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All monies derived from the sale of this book go to support the Stewart Memorial Health Centre.



JOHN ARCHIBALD STEWART, M.D., C.M.

## **DR. JOHN ARCHIBALD STEWART M.D.C.M.**

The Stewart Memorial Health Centre in Tyne Valley was named after a very worthy individual in the history of medicine in this area of Prince County. Dr. J.A. Stewart was born in Norboro, P.E.I. in 1872, the son of the late John Stewart and the late Penelope Dunbar Stewart. His early schooling was obtained from the Norboro elementary school. He then studied at Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown and McGill University in Montreal. In between his time spent in Prince of Wales and that spent in McGill he taught school in Park Corner, P.E.I. in order to raise money for his medical courses. He received a second class teaching certificate in 1892 and a first class certificate in 1894. Dr. Stewart had one brother Hugh and one sister Elizabeth.

A dream came true for J.A. Stewart when in 1904 he graduated as a medical practitioner from McGill University. He then headed to Tyne Valley and began his medical practice which was to last for thirty-eight years. On June 16, 1909 Dr. Stewart married Eliza Ramsay, R.N. from Tyne Valley, daughter of James Ramsay and Annie MacDougall Ramsay. Dr. and Mrs. Stewart had one child, John Rusten, who died in infancy. In 1935 the Stewarts adopted Millicent MacCaull (now Mrs. Aubrey Brookins of Kensington).

In addition to his medical practice Dr. Stewart operated a drug store in Tyne Valley in what is now Johnny Biggar's store. His doctor's office was in the back of the store. He also had his own power plant to supply lights for his office and store. Dr. Stewart's work was not confined to medicine as he always had a garden and did over the years a considerable amount of research into farming, fox-ranching, potato-growing and dairying.

Over the thirty-eight years of Dr. Stewart's practice in the Tyne Valley area, the people had excellent medical care. Many stories are told of Dr. Stewart's long trips by horse and sleigh to Foxley River to deliver a baby in a snow storm, of all the times he never got any rest for days and days, the fact that he unselfishly gave all his energies for the people of the area. He was indeed a tremendous individual. It is indeed a fitting memorial to him for the Stewart Memorial serves the needs of the area he served.

On November 2, 1942 Dr. John Archibald Stewart died at the age of seventy. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Hugh Creaser assisted by Rev. Mr. Parker and Rev. Mr. Henderson and was held in Tyne Valley Presbyterian Church. The hymns sung were "I am not ashamed to own my Lord" and "When the day of toil is done". Mr. Roy Phillips sang a solo, "Jesus Lover of My Soul". Tyne Valley and area had lost a man who had contributed a great deal to the lives of each and every citizen in the area.

Mrs. Eliza Stewart was instrumental in the building of the health centre in memory of her late husband. For many years after the Health Centre was opened she continued to work for teas and other functions and to support it in any way she could. She operated the drugstore in Tyne Valley from 1942 until 1960. Mrs. Stewart died on May 13, 1971, at the age of 89, making her the oldest living graduate of the Prince Edward Island School of Nursing from which she graduated in 1908. The funeral was held from the Tyne Valley Presbyterian Church on May 15, 1971.



**DR. AND MRS. J. A. STEWART**



**DR. STEWART AND ADOPTED DAUGHTER MILLICENT**

## INTRODUCTION

1951 was a momentous year for the twenty-two rural communities centered half-way between Summerside and O'Leary. It was that year that the Stewart Memorial Health Centre opened its doors. It began as a community effort and over the years has had tremendous support from the twenty-two districts. No one doubts the fact that it was needed when it was built and it is needed even more now.

During the last short while I have had the opportunity to read the minutes of all the Board meetings and annual meetings held concerning this hospital between 1949 and 1971. One reads these with awe at the personal sacrifices many many people made to see this hospital develop into one of the most efficiently-run small rural hospitals in Canada. Since its opening thousands of residents of these districts and other nearby communities have received excellent conscientious care from well-qualified doctors and nurses. A large number of people owe their lives to this Centre. Hundreds of babies first bawled at Stewart Memorial. Many people whose lives were nearing an end were given personal care and attention during the hardest days of their lives. From the cradle to the grave this small hospital has fulfilled each person's basic medical needs. Being a small institution patients feel right at home, the nurses treat these patients as members of a family for everyone knows everyone. The staff has been devoted first of all to the patients and their health and happiness.

Every institution which deals with the public is going to have its ups and downs and Stewart Memorial is no exception. Each time it has recovered as healthy or healthier than before. Each time the people of these twenty-two school districts have seen fit to stand behind their hospital and the Board that they elected to run it. Each time this cooperative effort has brought the hospital back to life again when it has become temporarily dormant. 1974 has seen another such crisis in the life of Stewart Memorial and probably the most potentially-damaging one so far but I am confident that the people of the founding districts will get together and forget the divisions of the present, look to the future and bring the Stewart Memorial Health Centre back as strong as ever.

Allan Graham,  
Bideford,  
October 12, 1974.

## THE YEARS 1948 - 1959

The Richmond Bay Credit Union was for many years a very vital part of life in the communities around Tyne Valley. The members of this group devoted much of their time to thinking of things which could help the area. One such item was the acquiring of twenty-four-hour telephone service. Up to this time only day service was provided. Another idea which was sparked by the enthusiasm of this group of citizens was the pursuit of better medical facilities in the area. On November 21, 1948 at the monthly credit union meeting held at the home of Arthur Newcombe, Northam, a committee was formed within the Richmond Bay Credit Union to investigate the possibility of getting better medical facilities. This committee then reported back to the Credit Union on December 31, 1948. In January, 1949, letters were sent to prospective doctors and the decision was made to call a public meeting. This public meeting was called by the Richmond Bay Credit Union and was held in the Tyne Valley Hall on March 8, 1949. This was the real beginning of the present centre. A steering committee was appointed to look into the financing of a health centre for the Tyne Valley area. It was felt that it would be impossible to attract a good doctor to the area without better facilities.

On October 18, 1949 letters patent were granted to a body known officially as the Stewart Memorial Health Centre. The signaturées were:

H. Richard Found, surveyer, Tyne Valley, (president)

Rev. Willis Young, minister, Tyne Valley, (vice-president)

Donald MacLean, teacher, Tyne Valley, (secretary-treasurer)

Victor Brown, Bayside, farmer

James Milligan, Northam, farmer

Charles Frost, Springhill, farmer

Claude Hayes, Ellerslie, fisheries officer

Ira Banks, Poplar Grove, farmer

Henry Maynard, Port Hill, farmer

James Williams, McNeills Mills, farmer

George Tuplin, Conway,

Mrs. Eliza Stewart, Tyne Valley, wife of former doctor

It was incorporated as "a rural hospital or health centre". At the regular meeting of the Hospital Board on November 26, 1949 the present site was selected. The land chosen consisted of approximately a quarter of an acre and was bought from Mr. Keith Dawson for \$125.00. Mr. Dawson also gave sewage right-of-way to the river, "or as far as was necessary to go". This meeting was held in Tyne Valley School as were many of the Board meetings during the early years of the Stewart Memorial.

On January 3, 1950 a public meeting was held in the Tyne Valley Hall to acquaint the public with what had been done up to date -- the

acquiring of government grants, the formulation of a scheme of maintenance, the purchase of property, the drawing of blueprints. In all, a very massive amount of work had been accomplished by a small but enthusiastic group of citizens. The women present at this meeting took a step which was to have far-reaching effects on the future of the Health Centre -- they agreed to look into the setting up of an Institute Hospital Aid Committee. The trustees and Institute Committee then met together on March 13, 1950 and decided that tenders should be called for the construction of a hospital on the site already purchased.

Very little time was lost between meetings of the Board in 1950. On May 31, 1950 the Board accepted the tender submitted by Angus MacLennan and Walter P. Newcombe to build the hospital for \$14,000. There was also a sub-tender accepted at the same time for the heating and plumbing from Morrison Bros., Summerside for the sum of \$3075. Now the actual construction could start and the concrete results of all the planning and negotiating would soon be seen.

Through all of the early years of the existence of the Stewart Memorial Health Centre much of the funds for new equipment was raised through tea parties. These were annual events which were looked forward to by all the community. The first tea party held for the benefit of the Stewart Memorial was in the summer of 1950. The proceeds amounted to \$1,707.27 plus a donation of \$10.00. The Hospital Ladies' Aid was in charge of these events and there was always much variety available. Sometimes a lady would bake a cake and tickets would be sold on it, or probably an afghan might be ticketed off.

Construction was proceeding at a very good pace and the Board was able to hold its first meeting in the partially-completed structure on March 10, 1951. Work was proceeding on finding groups and individuals who would furnish rooms in the Centre in memory of relatives. The first group to agree to furnish a room was the Masons, the head of which at that time was Mr. Alfred Colwill. At a special Board meeting on March 31, 1951 the scale of rates were adopted for the soon-to-be-opened Health Centre:

private room . . . . .	\$5.50 per day
semi-private room . . . . .	\$4.50 per day
nursery . . . . .	\$1.00 per day
case room . . . . .	\$6.00 per day

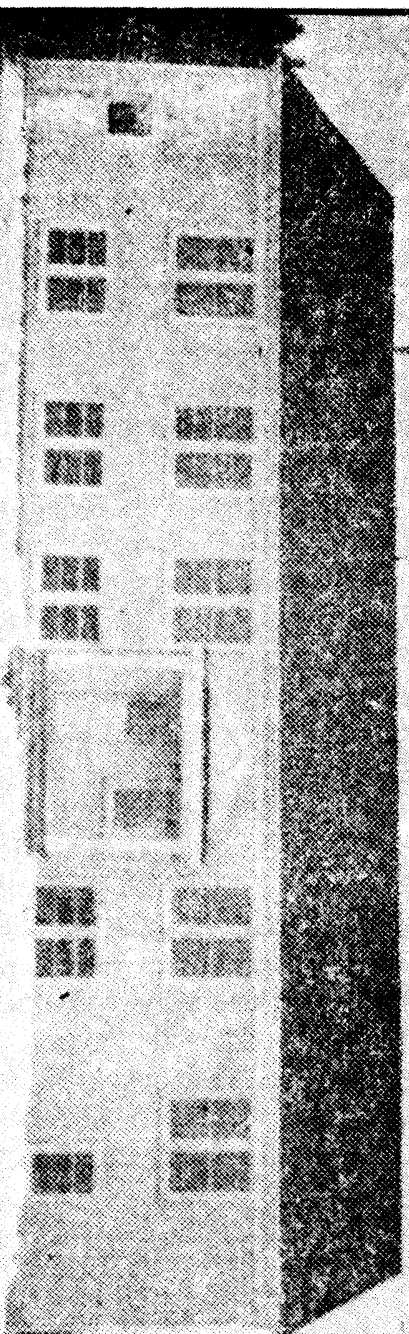
It is easily seen that the plans were to keep the charges as low as possible for this was to be a people's hospital. All residents of the area should be able to afford treatment there. At the same meeting a scale of wages was also drawn up:

matron . . . . .	\$1700. per year
nurse . . . . .	\$1400. per year
janitor-cook (couple) . . . . .	\$1200. — 1500.
maid . . . . .	\$ 750. per year

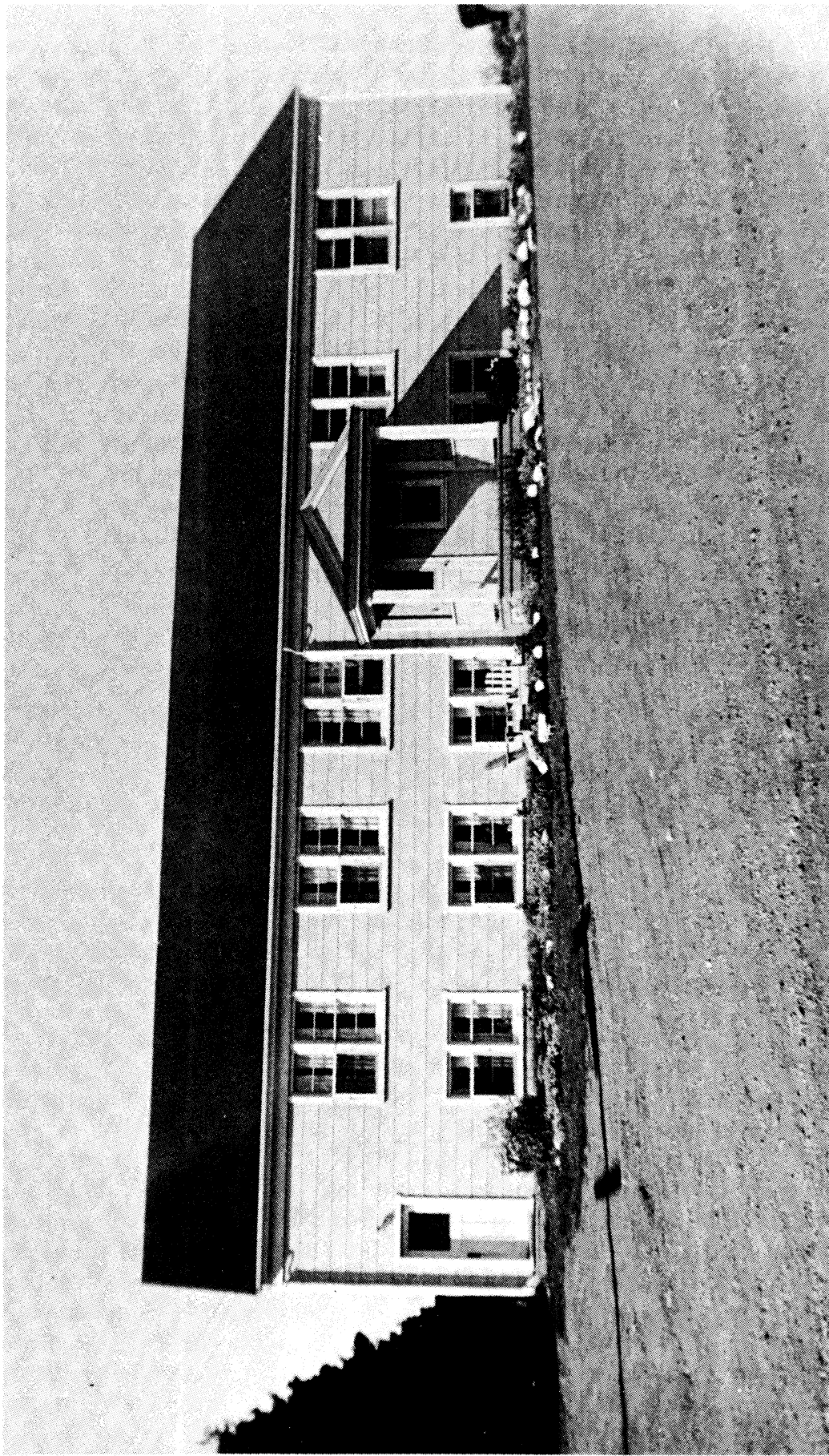


# **Stewart Memorial Health Centre Officially Opened Yesterday At Tyne Valley**

*May 25/1951*







The official opening of the Stewart Memorial Health Centre took place on May 24, 1951. Four hundred people were present to witness this ceremony. The media were present as represented by the late Bob Schurman who conducted a tour of the building over the radio (C.J.R.W.). This type of program was called "the walking mike". Mr. Richard Found, chairman of the Hospital Board and Mr. Ken C. Watson from Simpson Co. conducted the tour. Several speeches were made. Dr. A.R. Grant from Summerside stated that the building was a grand job indeed, a "real utility for the people in the surrounding districts." Mr. Found stated: "This institution cannot function without your help and support. This is your institution built for your use -- help it and benefit from it" referring of course to the people of the founding districts.

The Hon. Walter Darby, K.C. Attorney-General of the province at that time officially opened the Centre by the act of opening the door himself. He stated "this fine hospital . . . is a fitting memorial for the surrounding people's industry, sacrifice and enterprise." Rev. R.H. Baxter of the Bideford United Charge then asked for one minute's silence in memory of the late Dr. Stewart in memory of whom the building was being dedicated. Following that Mr. Baxter supplied a fitting prayer for the occasion.

The next speaker was Mrs. Reginald Birch, past provincial president of the Women's Institute, who stated that "the task has been a difficult one. As we step from the goal of building to the goal of healing we remember Dr. Stewart who was responsible for the relief of the suffering of many".

Mrs. Eliza Stewart, wife of the late doctor, then spoke. Remembering her husband, she said, "his heart was in his work -- he loved the country -- and he never was alone in his catering to the needs of others, for there was always someone willing to help him."

Mr. Found then introduced the Secretary-Treasurer of the Stewart Memorial Health Centre, Mr. Donald MacLean, who pointed out that the erection of such a building was the expression of our practical Christianity and was in keeping with the law of God -- love your neighbor as yourself. He again threw the onus for this building and its permanence back to the people of the districts -- "this building is just as efficient as you make it." He thanked the governments for their grants of \$7,000. each, and the men who worked so hard for the attainment of this grant -- Mr. Walter Darby, Mr. Alex Matheson, and Dr. Shaw. He also thanked the Robert Simpson Company for their cooperation in supervising and supplying of interior furnishings and the various business firms of Summerside which he said he was happy to thank for the donations they had already given to the Centre. Lastly he mentioned the donations of room-furnishings by the Tyne Valley Young People's Society, Ellerslie Branch of the Canadian Legion, the Masonic Lodge of Port Hill, and Mr. William Burleigh, Ellerslie.

The building was then inspected by all of the people. The ladies of the districts served lunch throughout and many donations were received for the Centre.

A dance was held in the evening at Milligan's Hall, on the farm of James Milligan in Northam. A supper was held outside of the hall first. A band was present. In all it was a very fitting ending to a memorable day.

On June 2, 1951 Mr. and Mrs. Clark MacQuarrie were accepted as the first cook and janitor at a revised salary of \$100. each per month. A large dental clinic was held starting on July 17, 1951. The annual tea-party-picnic for 1951 was held and a profit of \$1,367.95 raised for the Centre.

1951 was indeed a momentous year for the Centre. The first baby born at the Health Centre was Barry Stewart MacLean, son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace MacLean who was born on July 20, 1951. The Board of the Stewart Memorial felt that this baby should have something to show that he had been the first one born in this new institution so a mug was purchased and suitably-engraved and presented to the parents. During 1951 also, the first crisis developed within the Centre because of a shortage of nurses. The situation was soon rectified. Mr. Earle Hickey was given the job of keeping the books in line for the Centre at the fee of \$15.00 per month. The Bideford Choir ended 1951 as far as the Centre was concerned very nicely by dedicating their Christmas Sacred Program over C.J.R.W. to the patients in the Stewart Memorial Health Centre.

At the January 21, meeting of the Board in 1952 the first doctor was welcomed to the Health Centre. This was Doctor William Barton. He immediately began setting up a set of rates for drugs and medicines. Also at this meeting a publicity pamphlet was written for a public canvass to be held for funds. This 1952 campaign was conducted by the following people:

Tyne Valley – Earle Williams, Donald MacLean  
Ellerslie – Al Skinner  
East Bideford – Russell Ellis  
Bideford – H.R. Found  
Poplar Grove – Ira Banks  
Lot 11 – Wilbur Hardy  
Port Hill – Henry Maynard  
Birch Hill – Stanley Maynard, Sid Birch  
Arlington – Maynard MacArthur  
Bayside – Victor Brown, Angus Gillis  
Enmore – Sid Enman  
Mount Pleasant – Ansel Ballum  
Springhill – Charles Frost  
Northam – Spurgeon Dymont

Early in 1952 a problem developed which was to bother the Board until the Hospital Services Commission took over the financial matters of such a hospital. This was the long-over-due but unpaid bills for treatment. On August 19, 1952 a committee was formed to interview debtors after a period of three months from the date of notification had expired if the debt had not been attended to. At the same time, \$1000. was also borrowed to pay off the outstanding debts. In November blood transfusion equipment was purchased. The first steps were also taken in 1952 to bring the medical problems of the residents of Lennox Island to the Stewart Memorial Health Centre. On October 20, 1952 a fox house from Keith Dawson was purchased in order to make a root cellar for the Centre. On November 1, 1952 new rates became effective as follows:

private room . . . . .	\$7.00 per day
semi-private room . . . . .	\$5.50 per day
nursery . . . . .	\$1.00 per day
but \$2.00 per day after the mother's departure.	
incubator . . . . .	\$ .50 per day
operating room for maternities . . . . .	\$6.00 per day
operating room for operations other than maternities	\$10.00 per day.

As one reads back through the minutes, one is impressed with the fact that no year was wasted at the Centre. Each year of its existence important decisions have been made. In 1953 a ruling was made that a deposit of \$10.00 (later raised to \$20.00) must be made by maternity patients when they entered the hospital. On August 17, the Board decided that no operation requiring deep anesthesia should be done unless the proper surgical equipment and medical assistant were available. Mrs. Sidney Enman baked a cake which was the highlight of the annual tea-party and realized a "comfortable sum" for the Health Centre. The night nurse was henceforth to be paid \$5.00 for 12 hour duty, and the day nurse \$4.17 for eight hours or \$5.00 for 12 hours. The salary of the matron was raised to \$5.50 for twelve hours. On May 26, 1953 a concert was held in Port Hill Hall to raise funds for the Centre. On February 21, 1953 a first occurred at the Stewart Memorial when twins were born to Mr. and Mrs. Horace Newcombe of Tyne Valley. The boy and girl weighed 7 lb. 3 oz and 7 lb. 8 oz. respectively.

## FIRST TWINS BORN



Above are shown with their mother the first twins born to Mr. and Mrs. Horace Newcombe, and a girl, are the children of

In 1954 the government grant was raised to \$3,000. A "gathering of the clans" was held under the direction of Mr. Burke, with part of the profit going to the Centre. Dr. Robinson became resident physician on September 16, 1954, beginning what was to become the longest stay of any physician as medical director of the Health Centre — 11½ years. An attempt was made to have the Stewart Memorial accredited under the Canadian Council on Hospital accreditation. An agreement was made with the Prince County for pathological work to be done there for the Stewart Memorial.

In 1955 a new thing was begun at the Stewart Memorial called TONSIL DAYS. Surgeons from Summerside (Dr. Roy Grant, Dr. Ken Beer, Dr. Claude Simpson) took turns coming up to the Stewart Memorial. Dr. Gilbert Gallant came up as anesthetist. Dr. Robinson would wait until he had a list of about six people that needed a tonsilectomy. He would then notify the doctors and make the arrangements. The patients would come in about four p.m. and Dr. and Mrs. Robinson would do the routine lab work. Then they would start the next morning and operate. After the operations were complete Dr. and Mrs. Robinson would have all the visiting doctors and the nurses down to their house for an evening meal. Dr. Robinson would then pay these visiting doctors from his own pocket and hopefully collect from the patients later. While Dr. Robinson was at Stewart Memorial there were approximately fifty tonsilectomies performed. Dr. Robinson was a firm believer in the

fact that operations should only be performed when needed and this is reflected in the fact that of all the newborn while he was here only five newborn circumcisions were performed at the Stewart Memorial. The only other operations performed under Dr. Robinson's direction were the treatment of incomplete miscarriages, and approximately two hemeroid-ectomies.

Dr. Geoffrey Robinson was the first doctor on Prince Edward Island to have a two-way voice radio set-up for his medical practice. He had it in his car, boat, and at the Stewart Memorial. This set-up was a very efficient one and saved him from retracing steps. It was even used to spot and report a forest fire.

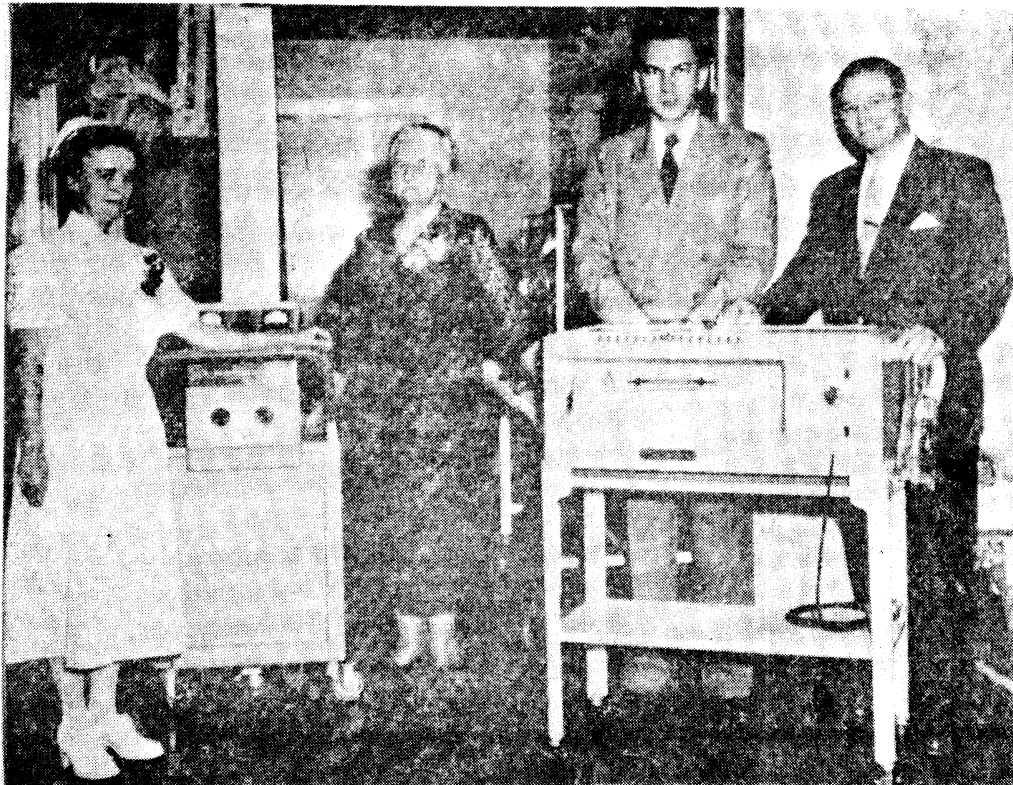
Another interesting thing about Doctor Robinson's early days at the Centre was the fact that until the Centre got its own E.C.G. machine the one from the Summerside Medical Centre was transported by car when necessary to Tyne Valley by Dr. Cameron and Dr. Ken Grant. Dr. Robinson bought the first anesthesia machine himself and used it at the Centre. Three years later the Board bought it from him.

1955 saw many fund-raising events held for the Stewart Memorial Health Centre. On March 4, a Carnival was held at the Mount Pleasant Rink. On July 27, the annual tea party and dance were held at Mount Pleasant airport resulting in \$1,389.65 in profits for the Centre. On September 7, a dance was held at the Ellerslie Legion with Bolgers Orchestra as accompaniment. So the funds were really drifting in. It was also in 1955 that the decision was made to purchase an X-ray machine, although the actual machine was not received until 1956 and was eventually donated by the Hospital Ladies Aid.

1956 was a very important year in the life of this important Health Centre. On April 30, 1956 the first move was made toward expansion of the facilities when Mr. John Ledgerwood was invited to attend the next meeting to discuss hospital expansion. Dr. Robinson was very much in favor of this enlargement and pushed a great deal for it. In July 1956 a fire occurred at the Health Centre which could have easily wrecked all the plans of the staff and Board for expansion. Approximately \$200.00 damage resulted. The caretaker's radio had poor wiring on it. A fire began in the radio and spread to the curtains in the caretaker's suite, and from there up the wall. Dr. Robinson and Mrs. Louise (Dean) Crosby, R.N. put the fire out. Also in 1956 the Hospital Ladies Aid, as mentioned above, presented the Stewart Memorial Health Centre with an X-ray machine. At the same time the Department of Health presented the Centre with an incubator and a croupette. The newspapers carried the story on September 20. The matron, Mrs. Bertha Lidstone accepted the new equipment. Mrs. J.A. Stewart represented the Ladies Aid, and the Hon. Dr. Lorne Bonnell (Minister of Health) and Dr. O.H. Curtis (Deputy Minister of Health) represented the Department



of Health. Rev. Frederick Sodden, pastor of Bideford United, offered a prayer of dedication and spoke briefly underscoring the importance of the Stewart Memorial. Mrs. Stewart expressed sincere appreciation to those in the Department of Health and to the residents in the districts around the Centre who had made it possible to obtain the new equipment. Dr. Bonnell spoke on the importance of the family doctor. He complimented the district on their initiative and the results of their combined efforts. He expressed the feeling that soon the government would bear the costs of health care. Mr. H.R. Found was the chairman of the presentation ceremony. Following the various presentations and speeches, a lunch was served by the Hospital Ladies Aid.



**EQUIPMENT PRESENTED**

**BOTTOM—** At the Stewart Memorial Hospital in Tyne Valley on Thursday evening an X-ray machine was presented to the hospital. The three new units above, are, left to right, the matron of the hospital, Mrs. Bertha Lidstone, R.N., who, on behalf of the hospital accepted the new equipment; Mrs. J. A. Stewart, widow of the late Dr. J. Stewart; Hon. Dr. Lorne Bonnell, Minister of Health, who, accompanied by Dr. O.H. Curtis, Deputy Minister of Health (right), presented the

It was in 1957 that all the efforts of many people re the expansion finally began to get results. At the regular Board meeting held June 3, 1957 the president said he thought some consideration should be given to expansion of facilities before the Health Insurance became in effect. A building committee of five was appointed: Mrs. Lidstone, Messrs Found, Robinson, Findlay and Crosby. At the September 16, 1957 meeting it was moved that a formal application be made for an extension of three wards, five beds per ward, and that Dr. Robinson be given permission to convert part of the boiler-room into a waiting-room. The Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Curtis, held a meeting in Charlottetown on November 27,

with a delegation from the Stewart Memorial re expansion. On December 16, 1957 work was begun on the plans for this extension. As you can see no time was wasted. This extension was needed - - the people of the area could see the need - - and they rallied behind the effort. The provincial government would pay one third of the cost, the federal government would do likewise, and this left one third of the cost for the local community to pay. However, after all this work had been done, problems were encountered and the slow wheels of government did not approve such an extension for several years.

During 1958 plans were continued to expand and a survey was done of the Stewart Memorial by a firm of Hospital Consultants. On May 18, 1959 it was agreed at a Board Meeting that Mr. Keith Dawson should be approached to sell more of his land to the Centre for the proposed expansion. Because of the impending Hospital Insurance Act and Hospital Services Act, amendments were made to the Health Centre By-laws, and Rules and Regulations regarding medical staff. These amendments were approved on September 21, 1959. The Ellerslie Legion donated an oxygen tent. Probably the most exciting thing to occur at the Stewart Memorial during 1959 and a very fitting end to the 50's was the birth at the Centre of the Journal-Pioneer Baby Derby Winner of the year. It was the first time that the baby derby winner had been born elsewhere than Prince County Hospital. The baby was born at 12:13 New Years Day to Mr. and Mrs. Allison Ramsay of Tyne Valley (and now of Montague). The eight pound 4½ ounce baby girl named Anne was the sixth in her family. The attending physician was Dr. Robinson. As a result of her early arrival the baby received all kinds of wonderful gifts through the generosity of Summerside merchants. It was indeed a great moment for the Stewart Memorial Health Centre. The first ten years of the Centre's existence since the letters patent were issued were now ending and the Centre was stronger than ever. The credit for the Centre being so strong should go to many people - - the people of the surrounding areas who really supported their Centre completely through these first years, a strong Board who made important decisions wisely, the various community groups who donated to the Centre periodically, the Ladies Aid of the Centre who slaved long hours in order to provide the Centre with needed items, and Dr. and Mrs. Robinson who both supported the Health Centre and worked their heads off to keep the Centre at maximum capacity. The fact that there was the same medical director for almost all of these first years helped a great deal both in patient relations (everyone knew the doctor etc.) and in Board time (the Board could spend its valuable time working on expansion and fund-raising etc. rather than often looking for a new doctor as in the 60's and 70's). So ends the 50's.



**DERBY WINNER AND MOTHER**

### **THE YEARS 1960 - 1969 INCLUSIVE**

The original office for the resident physician in the Stewart Memorial Health Centre was in the far west end of the building. Patients sat in the corridor while waiting to see the doctor. Benches were provided for their comfort. When the Hospital Services Commission began operations, Dr. Robinson, who was then the resident physician at the hospital, was given written notice that he could no longer use part of the hospital as his office. At that time, Dr. Robinson had not had a day off for thirty-three months, so he decided to take a month off and while he was away, have an office building built next to the Centre. Walter Newcombe built the office structure for him. The new office opened in December 1959 and was owned by Dr. Robinson until August 1974 when it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith of Tyne Valley. Through the intervening years the medical directors of the Centre have rented this office structure while resident physician at the Centre.

So the 1960's began with the Stewart Memorial being financed through the Hospital Services Commission. The doctor now had a separate office building thus allowing for better use of space in the Centre. Culverts were put in front of the Centre and the office and the area

between and in front became parking lot. The large utility pole in between these structures often became a bone of contention and many letters, visits and phone calls were made by Board members in an attempt to get it removed. (It is still there in 1974).

At the May 22, 1961 meeting of the Board, Mr. H. R. Found was made an honorary member of the Health Centre for he was retiring as the administrator. He had contributed a great deal of time and energy to the founding and retention of this hospital. During the first part of the 1960's Dr. Robinson was greatly over-worked at the Centre and several efforts were made by the Board and Dr. Robinson to coax an additional doctor (part-time at least) into the area. This would have given Dr. Robinson at least every second weekend off. When the hospital was full of patients as it was for Dr. Robinson's period as medical director, it was very difficult to leave for even a number of hours.



Ceremonies were held at Ellerslie yesterday celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Stewart Memorial Health Centre at Tyne Valley. Here Mrs. (Dr.) Stewart, widow of the founder of the Centre is seen cutting

the traditional birthday cake. At left is Mrs. Angus MacLellan, former president of the Ladies' Aid of the hospital, and at right is Mrs. Clark MacQuarrie, the present president.

— (Journal-Pioneer staff photo)

On June 12, 1961 at the Ellerslie Orange Hall a ceremony was held at the annual district convention of the Women's Institutes to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Stewart Memorial Health Centre. The program was conducted by Mrs. Clark MacQuarrie, president of the Hospital Ladies Aid, with introductory remarks by Mrs. H. R. Found who was chairing the convention. The high point of the program was the cutting of a birthday cake by Mrs. J. A. Stewart, wife of the doctor after whom the Centre was named. Corsages were presented to Mrs. Stewart, the matron, and former presidents of the Ladies Aid. Mrs. Stewart spoke briefly on the history of the Centre. Mrs. Muriel MacDougall spoke on interesting events that had occurred during the hospital's first ten years. The matron, Mrs. Lidstone, spoke on the future of the hospital. The

Bideford, East Bideford and Ellerslie Women's Institute groups then served afternoon tea to all present and the ceremony was brought to a close.

At the annual meeting of the Health Centre held June 26, 1961 the plans for alterations to the Centre were presented to the people by Dr. Robinson. The building committee consisting of Dr. Robinson, Mrs. Lidstone, James Milligan, Joshua MacArthur, Robert Grindley and Stanley Maynard, was given the power to hire an architect to draw up the plans for the addition and renovation. Mr. Keith Pickard was hired to do this work. On December 12, 1961 a milestone was reached as far as the staff was concerned when a pension plan was approved for the employees of the Health Centre.

In 1962 another public canvas for funds was held. In March 1963 an important step as far as the safety of the patients was taken when heat detectors were installed throughout the hospital.

By far the biggest item in the 1960's was the extension. A lot of work had been done during the 1950's as already outlined in the first chapter of this book. However, a lot of serious work was still left to be done. A question arose as to what should be done with the patients who needed the hospital while the actual construction was taking place. Where was the money to come from for the community part of the extension? On July 25, 1963 the Board decided that work should commence on the extension and renovation. Walter Newcombe and Kelvin MacLennan were contractors for this construction. The funds were still a problem. Everyone was thinking of ways funds could be raised. Cecil Stewart held races and contributed the profits towards the extension. The 1963 Tea Party was held in Port Hill and some funds were raised that way. However much more was needed. Dr. Robinson's father had used the idea of setting a watch and winding it and having tickets printed with the times on it successfully in England. He suggested this idea might interest and enthuse people here and might raise a lot of money. In this way was begun one of the most interesting fund-raising efforts yet to be launched on Prince Edward Island. Arnold MacLennan, of Summerside, sold a four-door Acadian sedan to the Board at a greatly reduced price. Tickets were printed with numbers related to the twenty-four hour clock - - i.e.

18

45

45

meaning 18:00 hours (6 p.m.) 45 minutes, 45 seconds. These tickets had to be very carefully printed and Irwin Printing did a really good job. A watch was wound and placed in a safety deposit box at the Royal Bank in Summerside. The most of the tickets were sold and everyone waited eagerly for the day of the official opening. The safety deposit box was opened by the manager of the Royal Bank who wrote the time at which the watch had stopped on a piece of paper which he placed in an envelope and sealed it. The watch had stopped at 8:24:00 and a Mrs.

John Flynn from King Street in Charlottetown was the winner. The watch was given away to the one who had sold the winning ticket. It turned out to be Stewart Lee, Mrs. Flynn's brother. The total profit for the hospital is listed as \$1400.



The official opening of the addition to the Health Centre and the renovated older part was held on October 31, 1964. It was officially opened by the Hon. Hubert McNeill, Minister of Health. Also present were Hon. Walter Shaw, premier of Prince Edward Island and Dr. L. E. Prowse of the Hospital Services Commission as well as other dignitaries. It was indeed a happy moment for all of those who had worked so hard for the Centre over the years. The extension was forty-nine feet long. The renovation to the original building included closets and sinks in each room, a new sewage system, a new furnace, a new pump, explosion-proof tile in the out-patient, operating and delivery rooms etc. The Stewart Memorial Health Centre now consisted of thirteen beds - - three for maternities, three for pediatrics, and seven for medical and surgical cases. The combined cost of renovation and extension was \$76,493 - - more than three times the cost of the original building. However, the facilities of the Stewart Memorial were now comparable with any good rural hospital. The costs were a problem at first but the federal and provincial governments came up with a total of \$50,622. in grants, and another



\$12,000. in Capital Costs Assistance grants. The community had raised a considerable amount of money. When all totals were in, a debt of \$3,500. was left - - a very small debt considering the amount of the original total cost.

During all of this time Dr. and Mrs. Robinson were working long hours trying to prepare the hospital so that it could become accredited. This meant that every detail of administration etc. had to be well-thought-out and everything had to be in order. The inspectors then came to the Hospital and checked every detail and wrote lengthy reports, supporting or not supporting this accreditation. It was therefore with great jubilation that the Board and Dr. Robinson received word in 1965 that the Stewart Memorial Health Centre had been granted provisional accreditation thus making it the smallest hospital in Canada to have ever received such recognition.

On November 2, 1965 Dr. Geoffrey Robinson resigned from the staff of Stewart Memorial Health Centre and moved to Drumheller Alberta. This loss was greatly felt in the area. A lot of people owed their lives to his quick attention in time of accident etc. During his tenure as medical director of the Stewart Memorial the hospital reached a peak in its twenty-three year history - - each year there were more out-patients and in-patients and maternities continued to stay at a reasonable number. Only in 1961 did a slump in patients occur. Only during the terms of Drs. Foster and Robinson did the Hospital reach its maximum capacity and did the community use its facilities to the fullest.

At the Board level again a change was made in 1964 which caused a shift in representation. Instead of each district having a representative, the Board was now to have only twelve members. The area was divided into four quadrants with the quadrant dividers being the Western Road, the Tommycod Road, and the Ellerslie Road through to Bideford. (This new system continues in effect).

On April 1, 1966 the assets of the Trout River Black and Silver Fox Company Limited amounting to \$707.98 were turned over by the Provincial Treasurer to the Stewart Memorial Health Centre. This was indeed a great donation. A dance held at the Ellerslie Legion for the benefit of the Health Centre had netted \$49.60 at the door, \$20.83 in lunches, and \$50.00 from the sale of tickets on a cake baked by Mrs. Russell Lockerby. The Presbyterian Pipe Band from Summerside gave a concert at the Port Hill Hall with the Centre getting 50% of the profits. This resulted in \$9.70 being put in the donation books. Emergency slides were installed on the staircases which could fold away when not needed. Late in 1966 plans were discussed re putting out a calendar in 1967 as a means of raising money. 500 of these distinctive calendars were produced by Arethusa Handicrafts of Tyne Valley at a cost of \$.50 each and were sold throughout 1967. The calendar consisted of the name of the Centre, the Centennial 1967 insignia, and a beautiful black

and white photograph of the Stewart Memorial Health Centre. These calendars are now collector's items. It was also during this time that the hospital suffered a brief closure because of the lack of a medical director, a situation which was to plague the Board several more times during the 70's. The Hospital was closed from November 2, 1965 until February 1, 1966. Also in 1966 the firm of Agnew, Peckham, and Associates Ltd., Hospital Consultants, did a survey of the hospital facilities. This was the second such survey done on the Stewart Memorial. The results of the survey were very encouraging and said in part that if the Board could continue to maintain the high level of staff which they then had, and if the community could continue to attract a competent physician, then the citizens of the areas had nothing to be worried about - - they had a good hospital.

Dr. A. H. Goldberg became the resident physician at the Stewart Memorial Health Centre on February 1, 1966 and this allowed the Centre to again open its doors. While the hospital had been closed, many of the people who would have used the Stewart Memorial facilities had had to switch to doctors in either O'Leary or Summerside. This meant that a practise had to be built up from the bottom almost by the new doctor and a slump is therefore noticed in hospital use. Then Dr. Goldberg took a few months off and Dr. Michael Leser came in as locum for that period. Another doctor had moved into the district in the person of Dr. Wenonah Foster, wife of the new United Church minister in the area. In February 1967 she became a locum for both the doctor at Tyne Valley (which she stated as her priority should she be needed there). and O'Leary Hospital. On March 29, 1967 Dr. Foster became full-time at the Stewart Memorial when Dr. Goldberg decided to leave the province. The uncertainty of changing doctors had left a big problem for Dr. Foster to walk into but it didn't take her long to have the Stewart Memorial humming like it did under Dr. Robinson. The Medical staff at the Stewart Memorial in 1968 consisted of:

Dr. Wenonah Foster	}	medical director
Dr. L.G. Dewar		
Dr. G. Gallant		
Dr. J.B. Downing	}	active staff
Dr. H. Moyse		
Dr. G. Lee		
Dr. R. Reid	}	consultants
Dr. T. Moore		
Dr. Jodrey		
Dr. Cameron	}	courtesy

1967 was one of the busiest years that the Stewart Memorial Health Centre has seen. There were 372 in-patients, 532 out-patients, and 24 babies born. At this time the patient day-cost was \$9.12 (versus \$37.50 in 1974). Mr. and Mrs. Bob McGill donated a microscope to the

Centre. The Hospital Ladies Aid continued to provide an unbelievable amount of financial aid to the Centre for such a small group. Two manual fire alarm boxes were placed in the Hospital, one on each floor. A new concrete block building was built to house the oxygen tanks. The piping was completed for oxygen to be piped into each room in the hospital. An attempt was made to haul an old shed off the property. This shed had been used as storage and was not in the best of shape. When the owner of adjacent property complained about its unsightly appearance it was decided to pull it back where it couldn't be seen - - back by the woods somewhere. More of it was rotten than had previously been figured and when an attempt was made to move it, the building collapsed in a neat pile of wood. Its remains were hauled unceremoniously to the dump. A new storage building was erected at a cost of \$503.

All through these years the staff of the Fire Department of what was then R.C.A.F. STATION, Summerside was responsible for conducting fire drills at the Stewart Memorial. They would come up with fire trucks and everything and the alarm would be rung. They would also give demonstrations to the staff on the use of the fire extinguisher etc.

A Plaque was erected in the main hallway, second floor of the hospital, on which were listed all of those people and groups which had contributed a great deal to the Health Centre.

During the five and a half years that Dr. Foster was the medical director of the Stewart Memorial, Dr. Raymond Reid of Wellington was a great help to her, as he had been to all of the previous doctors. In the summer of 1967 he was the locum while Dr. Foster took a much-needed holiday. If Dr. Foster wanted an evening off to attend a meeting in Charlottetown etc. Dr. Reid would be on call for her while she was away, and this was all without remuneration. Over the years of the Health Centre's existence. Dr. Reid contributed a great deal of his time and energy for its maintenance without a great deal of thanks in return.

In 1967 a large flu epidemic hit the Tyne Valley area. Everyone had a dose of it and usually a touch of pneumonia as well. The Stewart Memorial was crammed with patients - - beds and cots in the corridors and a very busy staff.

While in the Stewart Memorial Health Centre as medical director, Dr. Foster found that it was necessary to limit her patients to approximately 3000. A notice was published to this effect in the papers. She wished to do a very good job and felt that she could not cope with more than this number.

Dr. Foster was appointed as the physician to the Indian Reserve on Lennox Island. At that time there was no causeway there and she subsequently had many interesting trips to this small Island one mile

from the Port Hill shore. Quite often, Margaret Ellis, the public health nurse, would cross to the Island with her. Dr. Foster recalls in particular one trip she had to Lennox Island in the middle of a bad storm. It was too rough to take the ferry. Instead they sent a dory over from the reserve and she had to cross in this small boat. It goes almost without saying that Dr. Foster got well-soaked. Through the history of the Centre the Indians from Lennox Island have always enjoyed the same benefits from the Stewart Memorial Health Centre as the residents of the founding districts.

It always seems that a holiday is a good day for someone to get sick. Christmas Day 1967 was no exception. Dr. Foster had to spend the whole day arranging for a mercy flight from Lennox Island. A resident of Lennox Island was in need of an appendectomy. At this time the Search and Rescue was based in C.F.B. Greenwood, Nova Scotia, and it was through them that Dr. Foster had to arrange for this flight.

One of the most interesting patients that was admitted to the Stewart Memorial Health Centre while Dr. Foster was there was the last resident of Lennox Island who could speak only Micmac. While she was receiving treatment in the Centre she had to have her daughter there as her interpreter.

Dr. Foster seemed to have the best of luck. Every storm someone got sick or needed help. One of her most challenging calls was one from a lady who was suffering from post-partum hemorrhaging. All cars were off the roads and the roads were well-blocked. A snowplow was called and Dr. Foster journeyed the six miles in the snowplow. However this snowplow broke down just about to the house where the patient lived. Dr. Foster walked the rest of the way and stayed with the patient until another plow arrived from O'Leary. She had left home around 2:00 a.m. and didn't arrive back home until breakfast time.

During 1968 the number of babies at the Centre was back up to 40. From now on the hospital would close for three weeks in the summer for staff vacations. The Hospital Ladies' Aid was in great shape working long hours on behalf of the hospital. In 1968 they held teas at Christmas and Easter, sold articles from a baby cupboard, sold tickets on a quilt, and two cakes, and collected other money. During this same year they contributed a mixmaster, an electric frying pan, a centrifuge, flowers for the hospital grounds etc. Over the period from 1964 to 1968 this Ladies' Aid contributed a total of \$3,497.40 in materials to the Stewart Memorial Health Centre. This kind of loyalty and support is of utmost importance to a small public institution such as this.

Several groups thought of the Stewart Memorial when it came time for them to wind up their business. The Ellerslie-Conway Telephone Co. closed its books and left its assets of \$308.18 to the Centre. The Richmond Bay 4H Club dissolved in 1969 and its assets were also donated to the

Health Centre. It is tremendous to see this type of support given by so ~~many~~ groups.

In 1969 another set of twins was born at Stewart Memorial, this time to Claude and Esther MacLean. The twins were named Allison and Ann. Dr. Foster was the attending physician.

Tonsil days were continued by Dr. Foster until 1970 and Drs. Beer, Cameron and Arnold MacLean came to Tyne Valley to do these operations. Under Dr. Foster the policy of doing only those operations which were necessary was continued. During her five and a half years there were approximately fifteen tonsilectomies, one hernia repair, and approximately twenty newborn circumcisions.

This brings us to the end of the 1960's. It was a very successful decade for the Centre. Many people spent a great deal of their free time during these years canvassing, cooking, serving at teas, and doing all kinds of wonderful things for their community hospital. This decade saw the hospital gain provisional accreditation thus making it the smallest one in Canada to achieve this standard. It was also a time of expansion and renovation. As it prepared to enter the seventies Stewart Memorial was in great shape - - a good staff, an excellent medical director, loads of patients needing help, a good physical plant with its newly-expanded facilities - - a hospital definitely ready and able to fill the medical needs of the surrounding area for many years to come.

## THE 1970'S

The seventies started off very well but in 1972 the first of a series of short closures occurred. Dr. Foster's husband, Rev. John Foster, the United Church minister at Bideford, accepted a call to Vernon United Church Charge and Dr. Foster found it therefore necessary to move as well. It was indeed a great loss to the Centre when Dr. Foster left. She had worked hard and long for this Centre and had brought it to a high level of efficiency. She had won the people of the districts to the support of her practice and to the Centre. Many who had gone elsewhere for medical care returned to the Stewart Memorial. She had stayed as medical director for five and a half years and these along with Dr. Robinson's eleven and a half years had been the most busy and productive years the Centre has seen.

The Stewart Memorial was to be closed twice more as well in the early seventies - - in 1973 when Dr. Campbell left to go to Halifax, and throughout the summer of 1974 after the mass resignation of nurses. It should be mentioned however that each time that the Board secured a new medical director it did not take long for people in the surrounding districts to return to the Stewart Memorial facilities for their medical needs.

In 1971 two large hooked rugs and two afghans were made and contributed to the hospital by Mrs. Alexander Reeves. The Ladies' Aid sold tickets on these articles and a great deal of money was raised for the Centre through this way.

In 1973 the Health Centre was again enlarged with the addition of a solarium. This addition cost \$12,000 plus \$1500. for furnishings and the entire cost was paid for by Mr. and Mrs. James Henderson. Mr. Henderson had come originally from Freeland and he wanted to do something for the people of the area. At the time he was living in Boston. He died while the construction was being begun on this addition and his wife continued as he had requested. This solarium is indeed a great addition for it allows the patients who are recuperating at the Centre to sit in the sun and watch the community pass by. It also added a great deal to the look of the exterior of the Health Centre.

So we reach 1974 and the current dispute. All I can say, is that it is time for people to put away petty grievances and rally behind this hospital. We have some of the best hospital facilities in Canada right here in front of us. Let us appreciate it and use it and maintain it. If anyone in the districts served by this hospital needs medical care they do not, and have not had to, wait long for help. We should appreciate this benefit we have. It would be more than a sin to let this hospital fall by the wayside at this time because of petty disagreements. Let us all help bring it back to its former level of community use. Let us continue to have some of the best medical and health services on the Island, and indeed in Canada. Remember, as the speakers said so well at its official opening in 1951, it's up to the people of these twenty-two districts. If they want a good hospital then it's up to them to see that they keep it running above all else and that they raise money and support it in its time of need. Actions speak louder than words.





# APPENDIX I

## RECORD OF HOSPITAL USAGE IN - PATIENTS

	Adult & Children Admissions	Births	Deaths	Operations	E.C.G.'s	X-ray's
1951	aprox. 28	6	?	0		
1952	200	44	?	35		
1953	256	40	2	22		
1954	246	51	2	7		
1955	270	65	6	33		
1956	327	55	7	40		
1957	313	49	8	29		
1958	392	53	4	32		
1959	346	70	12	81	22	12
1960	346	64	17	52	22	22
1961	343	55	10	49	58	25
1962	441	62	6	55	44	89
1963	456	55	9	52	63	127
1964	394	53	12	69	59	232
1965	401	36	8	61	67	255
1966	321	9	7	30	45	161
1967	372	24	7	14	63	267
1968	406	44	5	28	66	247
1969	385	18	11	7	109	242
1970	409	24	5	13	91	224
1971	353	19	10	20	100	192
1972	385	2	7	19	81	184
1973	246	8	8	14	80	124
1974	246	—	7	7	180	105

(up to Oct. 31)

Compiled by Muriel MacDougall

# APPENDIX 11

## RECORD OF HOSPITAL USAGE OUT - PATIENTS

	Admissions	X-ray's	E.C.G.'s	Minor Surgery & other
1951				
1952				
1953	44			44
1954	89			89
1955	128			128
1956	186			186
1957	132			132
1958	132			132
1959	160	25	5	189
1960	241	25	27	223
1961	290	32	35	179
1962	325	113	33	242
1963	403	132	29	226
1964	494	223	45	210
1965	497	254	33	245
1966	351	266	29	230
1967	532	302	30	222
1968	416	198	43	162
1969	440	235	43	141
1970	357	167	49	164
1971	353	164	35	176
1972	482	168	46	304
1973	612	201	77	397
1974	460	268	187	163

(up to Oct 31)

Compiled by Muriel MacDougall

## MEDICAL DIRECTORS AT STEWART MEMORIAL

1952- - (Jan. - April) . .	Dr. William Barton (now in West Virginia)
1952-1954 . . . . .	Dr. Michael Burley (now in Minte, N.B.)
1954-1965 . . . . .	Dr. Geoffrey Robinson (now in Montague)
1966-1967 . . . . .	Dr. A.H. Goldberg (now in Stratford, Ontario)
1967-1972 . . . . .	Dr. Wenonah Foster (now in Pownal)
1972-1973 . . . . .	Dr. Donald Campbell (now in Halifax)
1973 (two weeks) . . . .	Dr. Trevor Louttit (now in Cereal, Alberta)
1973-1974 . . . . .	Dr. Humphrey Booth
1974- . . . . .	Dr. Joyce Madegane

## WORKING AS LOCUMS AT STEWART MEMORIAL

Dr. Raymond Reid . . . .	under Drs. Robinson and Foster
Dr. Michael Leser . . . .	under Dr. Goldberg (now in Stratford Ont.)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## MATRONS AT STEWART MEMORIAL

1951-1953 . . . . .	Mrs. Vanessa Burleigh
1954-1956 . . . . .	Mrs. Blanche England
1956-1973 . . . . .	Mrs. Bertha Lidstone (except part of 1963)
1963 (part thereof) . . .	Mrs. Margaret Kilbride
1973-1974 . . . . .	Mrs. Sandra Rayner
1974- . . . . .	Mrs. Margaret Kilbride

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

## CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD

1949-1960 . . . . .	Mr. Richard Found
1960-1961 . . . . .	Mr. James Milligan
1961-1966 . . . . .	Mr. Stanley Maynard
1966-1974 . . . . .	Mr. Robert Grindley
1974 (February - June)	Mr. Edwin Hansen
1974- . . . . .	Mr. Leigh Newcombe

## STEWART MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS

1960-1961 . . . . .	Mr. Richard Found
1961- . . . . .	Mr. James Milligan



### **DR. GEOFFREY ROBINSON**

Dr. Robinson was born in 1922 in Ludlow, Shropshire, England. He spent the years 1939 - 1944 in the British Armed Forces. After the War he attended St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, the University of London, graduating in 1951 as M.B. (Bachelor of Medicine), B.S. (Bachelor of Surgery), M.R.C.S. (member of the Royal College of Surgeons), L.R.C.P. (licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians). He then practised for two and a half years in Portsmouth, England.

Dr. Robinson had taken his navigator's training in Charlottetown in 1941 and so it was only natural that when he looked around for a place to emigrate to he thought of Prince Edward Island. In 1953 he emigrated, setting up an office in Alberton and practising there for fifteen months. Then he was persuaded to come to Tyne Valley in 1954.

After leaving Tyne Valley in 1965 he worked in Drumheller, Alberta, for seven months. But Dr. and Mrs. Robinson both missed Prince Edward Island and returned here in May, 1966, with Dr. Robinson setting up a practice in Montague in August of that year. At this moment in 1974 he is organizing an overall plan for medical care in the eastern part of Kings County, Prince Edward Island assisted by three colleagues. He is on the staffs of hospitals in Charlottetown, Montague, and Souris. He still maintains a residence in Tyne Valley.



### **DR. WENONAH FOSTER AND SIMON**

Dr. Foster was born in Bristol, England. She attended boarding school in Guildford, Surrey, and later moved to Porthcawl in South Wales.

She entered the School of Medicine of the University of Wales in 1951, and graduated in 1957. She married the Rev. John Foster in 1957 and emigrated to Canada settling in New Brunswick. Dr. Foster interned at the Victoria General Hospital in Fredericton, New Brunswick. In 1959 the Fosters moved to Prince Edward Island where Dr. Foster was appointed as the physician at Riverside Hospital and was in charge of the alcoholic patients at that hospital.

In 1961 the Fosters returned to the United Kingdom where Dr. Foster held the post of medical officer with the Department of Health in Cardiff, Wales. From 1962 to 1966 inclusive Dr. Foster worked in general practice in Treharris, South Wales. During 1965 and 1966 she carried out a post-graduate research program and study on "the state of the truly elderly" in the town of Treharris. The results of this study were written up by Dr. Foster and published in various medical and dental journals.

1966 saw the Fosters arrive back in Canada, settling in Biddeford, Prince Edward Island. On March 29, 1967 Dr. Foster became the medical director of the Stewart Memorial. She was also on the staffs of the Prince County, O'Leary and Alberton Hospitals.

After leaving this area in 1972 the Fosters settled in Pownal. Dr. Foster is now in private practice in Charlottetown, and is the medical consultant for the Addiction Foundation. She is on the active staffs of the Charlottetown and Prince Edward Island Hospitals and the Kings County Memorial in Montague.



## Ballots Cast At Ellerslie

A total of 636 people cast ballots Wednesday night in Ellerslie to show their confidence or lack of confidence in the board of directors of the Stewart Memorial Health Centre in Tyne Valley. When the votes were counted, 370 people were in favor of the board continuing its

term and in effect approving of its decision to refuse admitting privileges to Dr. Humphrey Booth, former medical director. Those opposing the board totalled 266. Shown here are deputy returning officer, Henry R. Maynard and voter, Wendell Maynard.



## **HEALTH CENTRE BOARD WINS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE**

(Copied from Nov. 28., 1974 issue of the Journal-Pioneer and written by Beryl MacDonald, Journal-Pioneer Staff Writer.)

A jubilant gathering expressed their pleasure last night at the outcome of the vote of confidence given the board of directors of the Stewart Memorial Health Centre in Tyne Valley. When the vote was counted 370 members of the Centre had expressed their confidence in the board with 266 voting no confidence.

Following the results Mr. Leigh Newcombe, chairman of the board said, "we are certainly pleased for the support of the people and hope to be able to carry out our duties to the best of our ability."

The gymnasium of the Ellerslie Consolidated School, capable of holding a thousand people was filled to capacity for the meeting with some forced to stand along the walls and out in the hall throughout the proceedings.

The public meeting was called to settle the matter over the board refusing admitting privileges to Dr. Humphrey Booth, former medical director, and his associate, Dr. Daniel Johnson. The Centre closed earlier this year due to the mass resignation of the nurses who said they refused to perform duties they felt they were unqualified to do but ordered to do by Dr. Booth.

It re-opened in September with a new medical director, Dr. Joyce Madigane and the board refused Dr. Booth admitting privileges.

Although the RCMP was requested to attend the meeting and did, and Dr. Thomas Hall, chairman, said he would not tolerate anyone speaking or acting out of line the meeting was an orderly one.

Mr. Newcombe read the motion that, "the members of the Centre have confidence in the present operation of the board of directors and this board to remain in office for the duration of their terms."

Following the motion the meeting was open to anyone wishing to speak on the matter, with Dr. Booth addressing the gathering first, saying he was sorry the unpleasant matter had descended to such a level.

Dr. Booth said he opposed the motion of the board for the vote of confidence because to give them that vote would be to continue with the situation as it was. He said a vote against the board would not be against personalities and they could re-offer to serve on another board. He said in the May meeting, the election was only a side issue and it had been mishandled, that only two offered and the others were nominated but not presented in a proper fashion.

### **CHARGES RULES IGNORED**

He said, "the board in its present form is not worthy of a vote of confidence, they have failed in their entrusted duty to run the Centre

according to the rules of its incorporation. Many rules were ignored entirely. He charged that during a meeting held in April many members of the board said they did not know of the existence of rules and regulations such as standing committees.

He said, "I told them this was a serious breach of trust. Two days later the nurses suddenly sent a letter of resignation, saying they could no longer function when the board was held up to ridicule."

Dr. Booth said, "the vital issue is that this incorporated Health Centre must live by rules and regulation or it cannot live at all. I have devoted my energy in keeping the Health Centre open but have been accused of failing to give my support after May.

"With the arrival of Dr. Madigane, I and Dr. Johnson offered a full report, making no reference to the unpleasantness of the previous months. It was many weeks before we received an acknowledgement and then it was only an acknowledgement. After many more weeks we were told that the board did not think it feasible to grant us privileges."

Dr. Booth said reasons given for this decision were that the nurses could not work with him but he noted that during a recent storm he admitted a patient to the Centre, with the permission of the board, and encountered no difficulties with the staff.

He said another ground for the refusal mentioned was the allegation that he abused privileges he had. He said "is there any patient that said I abused him?"

As to the nurses performing duties they felt they were not trained for Dr. Booth said, "I devised a program of practical work but their duties were not to replace what I did."

He said, "the board said it was solely concerned with opening the Health Centre. Apparently their only course was to sack me and move the nurses back to the fold and hire another medical officer."

### **TAKES EXCEPTION**

Dr. Booth said he took great exception to the statement of the board accusing him of unprofessional and unethical conduct and violations of the rules of the Health Centre. He said these charges were most serious ones to a doctor and nowhere could he find any rule for medical staff that he had broken.

Dr. Booth said, "the board cannot receive a vote of confidence because they claimed complete authority over the doctor and the nursing staff. Sometimes it appears that the nursing staff has complete authority over the board. But they also want authority over you and this is not to be tolerated. You members of the Centre are the ultimate authority in this matter. They have said you may not choose your own doctor."

He also charged that until yesterday that the board had tried to keep the members from Richmond, Wellington and Egmont Bay from having a vote. He said anyone that was a patient at the Centre within the

past 12 months, and over 18 years of age, was entitled to a vote. (Prior to the vote Carmen MacNeill, returning officer, said people from this area were included in the list of voters and read about 25 names from other areas who could vote, even from Summerside.)

### **READS BOARD STATEMENT**

Following remarks from a number of members of the Centre, both those for and against the board, Rev. Paul Grassie of the board read a statement, outlining the events that had led to the public meeting and the need for the vote of confidence. Mr. Grassie said the primary basis for dismissal of Dr. Booth was that he would not agree to guidelines set forth for duties of hospital staff.

He said an outside person had been brought in to act as mediator but Dr. Booth refused to accept his report also, which Mr. Grassie said indicated everyone was a bit to blame for the situation.

He said Dr. Booth had mocked the nurses and called them abusive names. He said, "the professional ability of these nurses was established in the community and at other hospitals they were not trouble-makers but had the respect of the people."

Mr. Grassie noted that when Dr. Booth refused to follow guidelines set down for him, he then suggested to open the Centre for outpatient care. Mr. Grassie said if this had been done the Hospital Services Commission would have no longer met the financial needs of the Centre and it would have been impossible to remain open.

### **CONSIDERED TWO POINTS**

He said the board considered two things in dismissing Dr. Booth, first that he made no serious attempts to settle his differences with the nurses and that he questioned the authority of the board. He said Dr. Booth would accept no responsibility for the closing of the Centre or for the hardship the closing caused. He said, "he admits to no errors or incorrect or improper action."

"If he had shown willingness to accept any plan, if he had met with the nurses or shown any willingness to work with them and the board, with respect, we would never have been forced to close the Centre in the first place."

Mr. Grassie said both Drs. Booth and Johnson could transfer their patients under the care of Dr. Madigane if they wished them admitted to the Centre saying this was only a small inconvenience compared to what would happen if the Centre was forced to close again.

Mr. Grassie said, "we all feel it is extremely important to realize that whatever outcome tonight, we still have to live together in the same community and function the same as we have before. It is hoped when the vote is taken tonight the matter will be buried."

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank all those people who were so generous with their time and who sat down and talked about their memories of this hospital. I would also like to thank all those who lent clippings and photos and who offered moral support. The following people definitely deserve credit for their help:

Mr. and Mrs. James Milligan  
Mrs. Blanche England  
Mrs. Blanche Maynard  
Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Newcombe  
Dr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Robinson  
Mrs. Muriel MacDougall  
Mrs. Margaret Kilbride  
Dr. Wenonah Foster  
Rev. John Foster  
Mr. and Mrs. Ken MacNevin  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald MacLean  
Mrs. Doris Grigg  
Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Brookins  
Dr. William Barton  
Dr. Michael Leser  
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Hardy  
Mrs. Eunice Noye  
Dr. Humphrey Booth  
Miss Margaret Mallett  
Mrs. Lucy Nisbet  
Mr. George Phillips  
Mrs. Dorothea Phillips