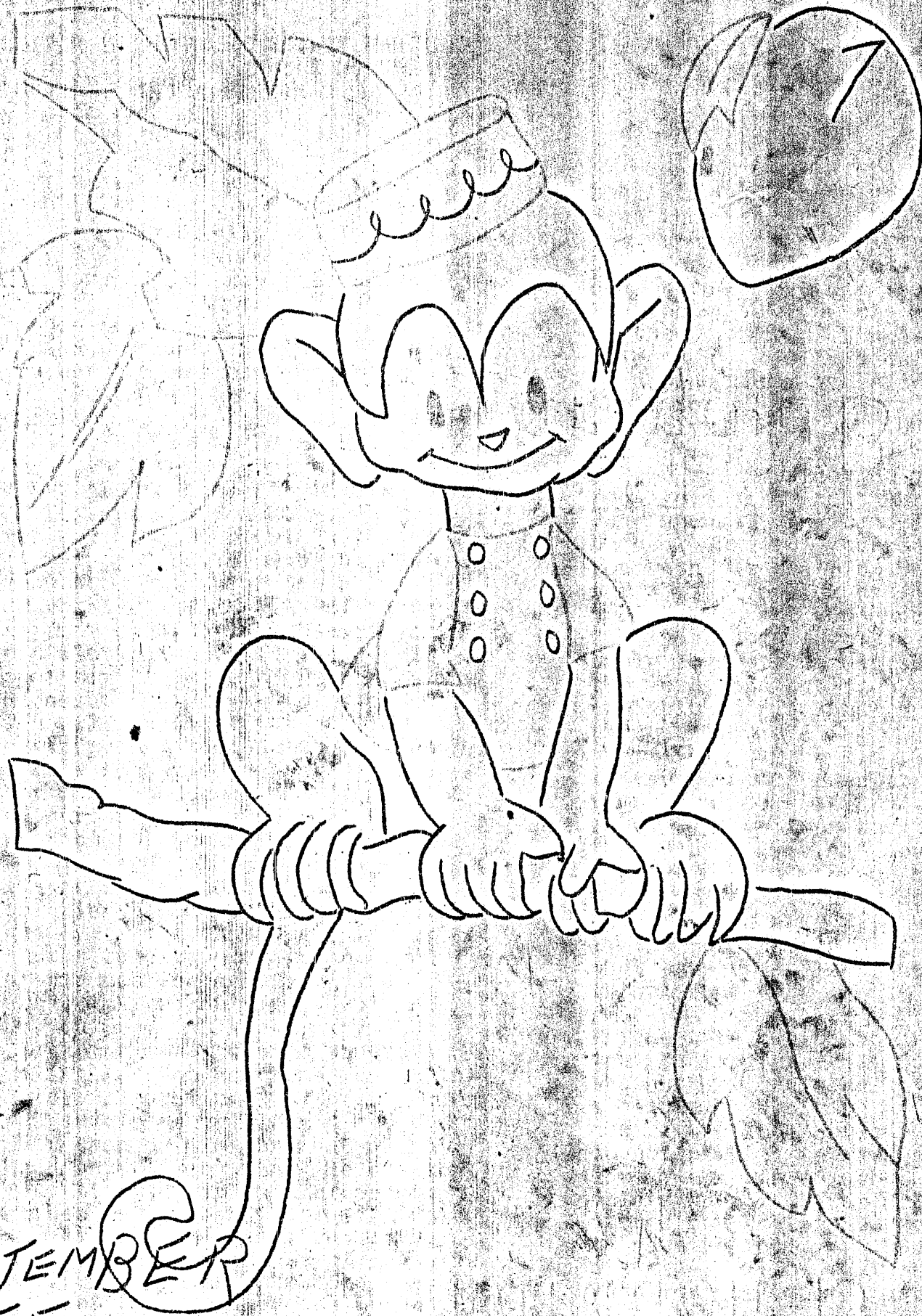


WHO AM I?



SEPTEMBER  
1955

POOMEYVILLE GAZETTE

SEPT. - OCT. 1955

EDITOR IN CHIEF - MARILYN MARTINKA

ADELE MOCKBEE

COVER - MARILYN MARTINKA

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## "WHY ME"

- By Don Kollar

How many of you patients often wonder, "Why did this have to happen to me?" I have thought it and no doubt all the rest of you have. Possibly you think you are being punished for your shortcomings and sins of the past. Then you wonder why so much penance for your sins when there are so many despicable characters who commit murder, robbery and other crimes that certainly deserve more punishment than you think the culprits do receive. This kind of thought is poor because it embraces your own little case. If you permit yourself to leave your own predicament behind you for a moment, you will consider the others around you. The adults may seem to be in the same boat as you, but what about the children? I am sure that they are not paying penance for their innocence.

If you have hashed this kind of thinking around for awhile, then what are your thoughts? If you're the average type of person, you stop wondering and remain bewildered. Maybe you pray. But how do you pray? Like so many that just pray as a routine procedure asking for the sometimes unattainable, or berating God for striking you such a heavy blow? Have you ever thanked Him for that which He has left you with? He has kept you alive and able to propagate without a trace of your affliction in your offspring. Miraculous, I say. I am sure most of you have your sanity - despite some arguments against that fact by the personnel here. All of you are able to speak,

hear and see. Have you considered those who have lost one or the other of these gifts that you take for granted? Some of you cannot reach out and touch your loved ones, BUT, would you give up the faculty of hearing their voices, especially a child's - or seeing the expressions on their faces? Be honest with yourselves.

If you are married, do you feel you are such a great burden on your spouse? Granted, it is a burden. But, do you recall that you both pledged "For better or for worse; in sickness and in health." Maybe you should thank God that those who love you truly love you in all senses of the word, and not just when you are able to give them material things.

If you do not happen to be married, your parents are sticking by you. Sometimes they try to do too much for you and you resent it. Remember, you are still their child, grown up or not, and they want to take up your burden if they only could. Appreciate what they do and let them know it in some way.

Friends are a disappointment to you because the great number you thought you had slowly become but a handful. Don't be afraid to ask of the real friends, but also do not neglect to give in return. Have you wondered about the therapists who treat you after the nurses and doctors worked so hard to save your lives? The therapists have a long path to travel with you, but they can't force you along it. They need your cooper-

ation. Why do these people work in such a discouraging place? They want to see everyone improve. They want neither public acclaim nor monetary compensation above their salaries for the services they perform, although they deserve much more than they now receive. It is a rewarding work wherein they have the inner satisfaction that they had a hand in your recovery. Perhaps you should thank God for giving them the knowledge and patience to continue to work with you, constantly striving for more improvement. If you think of this, how can you feel anything but shame for the times you were lazy or resented treatment when you knew it was for your betterment? The treatments are not dreamed up in secret meetings to see how much torture you can take! Where would you be without them? A disheartening thing to the personnel is when a person who knows better doesn't care to improve. Even a slight degree is better than none at all!

You have no doubts about the fact that you are not dreaming. Although sometimes you wish you would be able to wake up from such a dream. Then you realize that it is real and you are here and cannot move. For a long time after this realization you try mighty hard not to face reality, but there comes a time when you know it is up to you to get better. You have a spurt of drive and enthusiasm followed by a smacking in the face by cold, hard reality. This cold fact is that you aren't going to get out of bed suddenly one day and walk home. It is a long-drawn-out affair filled with heartbreaks and disappointments. Are the rewards worth the effort? If you don't think you owe it to yourself, how about those who have faith in you and need you? Nobody can convince you that you are anything but an invalid, but, is your mind paralyzed? No indeed! You can still exercise your mind. You

ask, "Of what value am I?" You possess your past-acquired knowledge, and there is room in the gray matter for very much more.

Perhaps you have caught yourself wishing you had died when you were in the acute stage. Why didn't you? God was controlling that, and He saved you for a reason. What reason? I don't profess to know, but certainly not to be a "vessel" to hold hate, resentment, self-pity, and other forms that bitterness takes. In your contacts with people, you can be just as infectious with a smile, a kind word, gratitude, as giving of bitterness. A smile will spread to other people as easily as a frown.

The essence of one verse in the bible: SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AND ALL ELSE SHALL COME TO YOU applies most specifically to situations such as you are now experiencing. Why? Because, if you put your fate in His hands, you can attain a peace of mind that will enable you to look to the future with clear eyes and graciously accept the path He gives you to follow. God certainly has not put you on a path that no other person has followed before with similar hardships and handicaps to overcome. How to see the path? The only way is to keep in contact with Him and your thoughts and decisions will be a reflection of His wishes. Remember, He sees the path before you do and you won't see it at all unless you lift your eyes so that He can clear the haze that collects from fear and doubt.

If you doubt what I say here, all I can say is: TRY IT. It has worked for me and now the future seems a bit brighter when I think of it, which is always. The darkness is behind, and the future does have a bright ray of hope and good things.

WELCOME:

Welcome to our new Supervisor on Div. 27, Miss Virginia Fields. She was born in Cleveland (wouldn't tell when), graduated from Lakeside Hospital, and spent 15 years in Public Health Work in North Dakota, Minnesota, as well as in the South and West.

She loves the great outdoors, and is an avid hunter, fisherman, golfer and gardener. She also sings with a Choral Group.

Miss Fields lives with her Mother and Great-aunt in Lyndhurst, Ohio.

We heard through the grapevine that she has had some mighty interesting experiences while in her Public Health work. We hope she will tell us some of them sometime.

By Jean Laing.

\* \* \* \*

Welcome to Becky Krieger. Becky was hospitalized Sept. 11, 1954 at Children's Hospital in Akron with bulbar spinal-type polio. She left there March 18, 1955 and was transferred to Akron City Hospital. On August 23rd we were the lucky ones to get her.

Becky is 27 and has a boy nine, one four, and a girl 2. She comes from Wadsworth, Ohio. She is able to stay on the bed without rocking all day, and at night she uses either the chest piece or goes back into the tank.

\* \* \* \*

THERAPIST OF THE MONTH

Our thanks to Huntington, Pa., for our Mary Wood. Mary lived in Pennsylvania until she was nine, and then moved to Lakewood, Ohio, where she graduated from Lakewood High School. The next two years

Mary served in the Women's Army Corps. After her discharge she attended the University of Wisconsin and graduated in 1952 with a B.S. degree in Physical Medicine. From 1952-1955, Mary worked at the Cleveland Rehabilitation Center and then attended the six months' graduate course in Polio at Warm Springs, Ga. She started with us July 18, 1955.

As you can gather, she has had a busy life so far. By the way, when asked how old she was, the reply was, "I was born long ago." (Do you believe it?)

The patients here on 27 don't see much of this busy therapist, as she is usually up visiting those patients on 28. Mary gets a lot of exercise herself as she likes to play golf and swim.

Thanks again for Mary Wood.

\* \* \* \*

AID OF THE MONTH

Brisk, yet ever-so-quiet steps are heard outside your room or ward. Then a gentle tap on the door and a low, soothing, and ever-so-pleasant voice says, "May I come in?" Next comes service galore and always with a big smile. She doesn't leave until you're perfectly comfortable and content. That's our aid of the month - and her name, if you haven't already guessed, is Audrey.

Born October 29, 1929 and reared right here in Cleveland, Audrey attended Longwood High School, and took her nurse's training at Franklin Institute.

She is the mother of a 17-months old daughter, Denise. Even as a mother and a full-time Nurse's Aid, and her eye on a R.N. rating, Audrey still finds time to sew as a hobby.

We lost Audrey on Sept. 6th to continue her Nursing training, but she hopes she can return to Toomey when she has completed it.

We'll all be hoping for your quick return, Audrey. Hurry back.

By Bill Hoelzer.

\* \* \* \*

RAYMOND GEORGE

Raymond George likes to watch T.V. We like him in our room very much. His Mother was here in City Hospital on Division 29. He is still in the tank, most of the time, but hope it won't be for much longer.

Vera Overholt

SALLY CARLTON

Sally is one of the new patients on Div. 28. She is 14 yrs old, in the 9th grade at Westlake High School, and lives on West Melrose Ave., Westlake, Ohio. She was born in Lakewood, and is an only child.

She is very much interested in collecting stamps and pictures of movie stars. She also likes to play baseball. She plays First base and pitches. (Maybe the Indians can use her). She gets her very fine suntan from baby-sitting!

She visits in Lima, Ohio quite often, and plans to go down for Christmas and spend some time with her relatives and friends.

She has a toy Dachshund named Hilda, and an oversized alley cat named George.

\* \* \* \*

TO OUR NEW SUPERVISOR OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE

Have you ever gone into any other hospital and been received by a more understanding, sympathetic, yet cheerful and helpful hostess than our Caroline Vitek?

Caroline was first employed at City on December 13, 1933 as a Ward Aide on Div. 24, and worked there about 5 months. She was then transferred to Division 27 and was there from 1934 to 1949 working as an Aide, and in the kitchen. She gave hot packs and treatments on Polio patients for Dr. Toomey, and was under the supervision of Mrs. Dorothy Sparks who at that time was head Physical Therapist.

In 1949 Carolyn was transferred to Toomey Information Office as a Hostess, and just a couple of months ago she was given a well-deserved promotion and is now classified as Supervisor of the Information Office.

She has been an active member of the Practical Nurses' Association for the past three years.

She is known as "Caroline" to everyone and is more than willing to "Go out of her way" to be helpful at all times.

Caroline is quite the "Hot Rod" gal now that she has acquired a Black and Red Ford. Did I hear something about a bumped fender?

\* \* \* \*

WE HEARD:

That a Rosemount, Minn. hotel displays this sign in its rooms: "Don't smoke in bed. The ashes that fall on the floor may be your own."

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH:

Have you ever heard a rooster crowing, or a fire engine's siren wailing in a hospital corridor; have you ever walked into a hospital room and seen balloons being blown up, or a "Howdy Doody" night light being plugged into a respirator; have you ever seen kids faces light up when they were handed toys and gadgets noone else has ever been able to find? If you ever have experiences like these, you know Gini Laurie is there.

Gini (Mrs. Joseph Laurie) was born and raised in St. Louis. She attended Sacred Heart Convent and Randolph-Macon and is a Phi Beta Kappa. She now lives on Maple St. in Chagrin Falls, O.

Working at Toomey is not the only Volunteering Gini does, for she is also with the Red Cross Bloodmobile and is at the head of the Red Cross Drive in her part of town.

She and Jan Servis have started an Herb Vinegar venture with Gini raising the Herbs in her huge Herb Garden. (Ask her sometime how much profit they have made to date)

This Yellow Bird has somewhere in the vicinity of 13 cats, and the only requirement to join the ranks is that the cats be black or Siamese.

Gini loves to explore Chinatowns and is an authority on them, not only in Cleveland, but in most any city she visits.

She has an extensive collection of records and spends many evenings listening to them on her Hi Fi. She is also an avid gardener, but don't you dare call a lowly Marigold a Marigold, in Gini's garden it is a Tagetes patula!

Gini received her five year Vol. pin last spring, and there just isn't anything this gal in yellow can't do from thrilling the kids with unusual gadgets to working with the sickest patients. We're glad to have you as our Volunteer of the month!

\* \* \* \*

"City" Goes to a Party

By Susan Ambrecht

Do you remember your sixteenth birthday?

Well I will never forget mine. The hostess was that super party giver, my friend Gini Laurie, ably assisted, as they say, by her husband Joe. Who but Gini, would have a Chinese motif, invite over fifty people and make arrangements for perfect (not too hot) weather?

There were Chinese dragons, fish and various other decorations hanging from the trees, these having been flown in from San Francisco. On one of the trees was a sign printed in Chinese, which translated, said "High Spirits - Born Day."

The guests included many City Hospital patients and alumni - Donna McGwinn, Ida Brinkman, Ruth Davis, Mary Jo Sands, Sally Russell and Kathy Harrigan. A wonderful surprise was seeing that debonair charmer, Ray Youdath (class of 50?). Girls, the line forms to the right (behind me of course). We were all happy to see Dr. Eiben, his wife and little girl, Mr. and Mrs. Henn and of course, Miss Gillen and Miss Mannix.

Needless to say, the loot from a crowd of fifty was really something. Miss Torok as usual, outdid herself. Speaking of gifts, and who doesn't, I'd like to thank everyone again.

I intended to send thank you notes, but, well - most of you know how that goes.

Refreshments were served buffet in the picnic area (what a spot!) Ham, turkey, hot potato salad, relishes, etc., and corn roasted personally, not by Oscar of the Waldorf, but by Joe of Chagrin. Ooh, I'm drooling.

The yellow frosted cake with red cloth, red being the Chinese color for joy.. This was accompanied by a freezer of home made (ask the men who helped) peach ice cream. Thanks, Mr. Trees.

I hope from this inadequate description you are able to get some idea of what a marvelous party I had and why I'll never forget my sixteenth birthday - thanks to Gini Laurie.

\* \* \* \*

THE ARTICLE

By Donna McGwinn

Here I sit in my wheelchair, stick in mouth, with a typewriter staring me in the face. I stare back. But being quite certain the typewriter, whom I shall call Blacky, is leering at me, I decide to ignore it. Seconds go by, then minutes, and then as the first hour passes, I get a brainstorm. Why not start writing on the Doctor of the Month? So out goes a scout to find Dr. Cotton. More minutes pass; scout returns; no luck. Doggone!

Maybe something in the ward would be interesting to write about. Mrs. Thompson is stretching Sue. Nope! A torture story is too morbid. Robilee is reading. Book review might be fun to do. Nope! Everybody's motor is working perfectly. Nope! Too fantastic! Oh dear! By now, two hours have flown by and

Blacky is getting impatient. It rattles its keys at me in disgust and shatters my nerves completely. Blacky can be so impatient at times!

About this time I decide to give up but a vision of Mrs. Randolph pops up and I change my mind. Good thing I did because ----- Hot Ziggedy!!! This time I've really got a brainstorm!!! Why not write about what I've just been thinking? It would take up space anyway. Good idea!!

\* \* \* \*

SCHOOL HAS ALSO BEGUN AT TOOLEY

On Monday, September 12, 1955, classroom activities began for us, Vera, Patsy and Ray from the Children's Ward, Div. 27.

We have school from 10:30 to 11:30 Monday through Friday on Div. 26. Our room looks very much like a regular classroom except we have beds instead of desks.

Vera, Patsy & Ray

\* \* \* \*

Calling All Frogbreathers:  
Call All Frogbreathers;  
Which Are You?

\* \* \*

- Tadpole - Trainees
- Ramipipions - Plain Frogs able to increase V.C.
- Bullfrog - Can croak 1,000 - 2,000
- Master Bullfrog - Can croak 2,000 - 3,000
- Phrog Doctor - Frog can croak over 3,000.

\* \* \* \* \*

BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER:

- Al Kehoe (Alumni) - Oct. 9
- Ida Brinkman " - " 13
- Bill Hoelzer - " 15
- Bob Arnold - " 17
- Bert Bacon - " 26
- Miss Shaw - " 23

Happy Birthday to all of you and many, many more.

\* \* \* \*

\$64,000 for the correct answers:

Where does Jimmy (P.T. Orderly) go after work? He certainly doesn't get THAT dressed up for nothing.

Is there no way for the student nurses to warm up their hands before working on us in the morning?

Who is the Aide who now goes around without her glasses? She does look more glamorous.

What were the four Volunteers doing in the waiting room on Div. 27? Do you detect a smell of waffles brewing or was that just the smoke?

Will Miss Cepic have to buy larger uniforms for those muscles?

Who was the member of our staff seen getting on a train with an ironing board?

Who is that famous busy red-head always buzzing around Al Hallo-way?

Where does Miss Miller get the stuff that she is drinking which keeps her so healthy?

\* \* \* \*

We hated to say Goodby to:

Kay Claybaugh who has returned to Kent to continue her studies. She was a familiar figure in the front offices as well as an able substitute on Div. 28.

Diane Ballard (R.N.) who has gone back to Ohio State for her B.A. degree in Journalism, but we welcome her Mother as a new Volunteer.

Mrs. Damm - although we hated to see her go, we are anxiously waiting to hear about the Little Damm. Everybody enjoyed her farewell party.

Carl Tucker, but we're glad to hear that he is able to be home for good.

It just isn't the same around here without Jessie (Aide). It is so peaceful and quiet, but we sure miss our little lady.

Adele Mockbee, but we're glad for her too that she has now joined the alumni. Where does Jean get her coffee now?

Ralph Mac., but maybe Miss Miller will have some peace now.

We sure do miss Kathy Harrigan, but you must admit it is a little easier to get the telephone now.

Dean Bowman, Orderly, who has returned to Antioch College. Sorry to see you leave us "Weasel Heads"

Ann Busher, Nurses' Aide, but at least we don't hear any more gruesome stories about autopsies!

Ida Brinkman, but glad she is able to be at home with her family again. We hear that Mayor Celebrezze's food budget has been decreased considerably since Ida's discharge.

\* \* \* \*



Further Tidbits from Toomey:

Glad to see the Freidel's back. They certainly seemed to enjoy their European trip, but has anybody been lucky enough to get a "blow by blow" description of the date with the Frenchman?

The men want to know, "Who is the Admiral?"

Let's hope those chains and screws holding Al Hollaway's typewriter are super-strong.

It was good to see Helen Jackson (R.N.) when she paid us a two week visit.

We want to welcome our two new School teachers: Miss Haynes, High School, and Miss Bucke, Grammar School.

Glad to see Bill Wood is able to get up into a wheel chair now.

There's a big smile on Beefin Bacon's face these days. His housing problem is at long last solved!

Did you know that Miss Allen (O.T.) and Miss Feisley (R.N.) have a new apartment? Sorry fellows I couldn't find out where.

Does anyone know what Marilyn does with her lemonade?

"Anyone care for a nut?" is the very familiar saying when Mr. McGwinn comes a-visiting. He must own that shop by now.

Have you been to the Pops Concert in the West Ward yet? Bob Lang provides the recorder every night.

We'd like to know what kind of books Sue's husband reads to her that makes HIM go into hysterics.

Becky has been initiated into

the Club. Her motor conked out one night!

We have just discovered who Robileo's boyfriend is - Dennis the Menace.

Have you seen the good looking belt Vera is now sporting? She made it all by herself.

Congrats also go to Patsy and Marilyn for the good job they did on their Bird Houses. Was it tough sanding, gals?

Did you know that Arleen Dohoda is in Berea Hospital? We're waiting anxiously to hear whether it's a Boy or Girl.

Anyone for surgery! Just ask Bill Hoelzer, Vera or Rudy, they'll show you the way.

We're glad to welcome Miss Ballard (Prac. Nurse) and Mrs. Rogers (6 to 11 relief) to our ranks.

Greetings also to John Gingerich (O. T. Orderly). It's nice to have you around.

Did you know that the D.J. who was kind enough to visit us one Tuesday night has a sister working in Toomey now?

We have a new hostess in the information office, Mrs. Dittebrand, and Jean Gamble has now joined her sister June in one of the front offices. Mrs. Pank's (Div. 23) has a new secretary too; Lorrie Frickensteine.

\* \* \* \*

#### RIDDLE DEPT.

Why did the moron throw the butter out of the window?

What is smaller than a flea's mouth?

What does a hen do when she stands on one foot?

Where was Moses when the lights went out?

We Heard:

That many a fluid-drive car has a drip at the wheel.

That according to fashion experts, women dress to express themselves. (that being so, seems like a lot of 'em have little to say!)

That when success turns a person's head it really ought to wring his neck - just a little.

That a wife who laughs at her husband's jokes doesn't mean that they are clever - she is!

\* \* \* \*

Answers to Riddles:

1. He wanted to see a "Busterfly"
2. What goes into it.
3. She holds up the other.
4. In the dark.

\* \* \* \*

Our Thanks to you Dept.

We wish to sincerely thank Tom O'Connell for the very fine article he wrote for his column "Radio-TV Backstage" in a recent edition of the Cleveland Plain Dealer which brought so many wonderful offers of help plus contributions for our T.V. Repair Fund.

The Wellman Radio and T.V. Service and the Ray Impett, Video Service donated their services to repair all of the sets, and we had still another offer from John C. Langner. The Wellman Radio and T.V. Service has also kindly offered to see that we get proper antennae to carry the load of our many sets.

Contributions for our Fund were sent in by Mrs. Joseph Kaplan,

Mrs. Edith Sherwood, Mrs. E. Alendale, Curtis W. Miles, plus some anonymous donors.

Thanks go to all of these fine people for as Mr. O'Connell so aptly wrote: "television is a blessing for shut-ins."

It was suggested to us by most T.V. repair people that our sets be standardized on shelves on the walls to prevent their being bumped or moved which is not good for them. This practice is being followed in most hospitals, and we hope to soon have ours out of the way so that we can eliminate the need for this constant repair for which we have no funds.

\* \* \* \*

Thanks again to Carl Markworth and his girls for printing the Gazette for us.

\* \* \* \*

Next month we hope to have more articles from you patients who have gone home. The deadline is the third Wednesday of the month and if you wish, you may send your articles directly to me, Mrs. H.F. Randolph, 24817 Sunset Dr., Bay Village. We'd love to hear from you.

We would also like to hear from some of the staff members too.

\* \* \* \*

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

The favorite pasttime in the East Ward, smoking, is becoming just as popular in the West Ward? Such fiends!

The P.T. Dept.'s latest excuse for yawning is "Oh, I'm just practicing frog breathing!"