

Patricia Boychuk Johnson ('71) makes her home on Peace River in Canada's beautiful Alberta

Patricia Boychuk Johnson ('71) and her husband Gary have plenty of faith in the Peace River Country and its future. Pat is married to the new recreation director of Peace River, Alberta, Canada. They found out about the open recreation job in Peace River via an ad in the Edmonton Journal. Pat says that Gary has always been closely associated with sports and coached many sports through his high school days. He graduated from Lakehead University at Thunder Bay with a major in physical education.

Upon his graduation, he took his first recreation job at Fort Franklin in the North West Territories. "We had heard of Peace River while in the territories" noted Gary. Occasionally the hockey broadcasts over CKYL could be heard all the way to Fort Franklin. While in Fort Franklin Gary organized a young adult club, cooking classes for girls, a cross country ski club, volley ball and mixed adult clubs. He also found time to organize the first newspaper there and before leaving had spent considerable time in hope of Fort Franklin getting their own radio station. He tells us that it was well on its way to being a reality after he left the far north.

Pat and Gary have seen a lot of North Country. From Thunder Bay, Ontario to Fort Franklin, North West Territory is a long way. So is it a long way to Peace River . . . but they hope that Peace River will be their home for many, many future years.

Med Rec Grads! Refresher Course planned in July

A refresher course in medical record administration will be held July 22, 1974 through August 2, 1974 at the College of St. Scholastica. A recent letter to alumni requesting suggestions for topic inclusion is bringing encouraging response. As soon as all replies are in, we will be contacting interested persons with the finalized program. If you did not receive the initial letter and are interested, write us.

"Nursing is concerned with human beings first" . . .

Sr. Rita Marie Bergeron ('40)

Sister Rita Marie Bergeron, Professor of Nursing and Dean, School of Nursing, Georgetown University, graduated from Scholastica in 1940. Since then she's been busy. She earned her M.S. at Catholic University School of Nursing, majoring in Education, Administration in Nursing, and minoring in Education, Philosophy and Teaching of Nursing Arts. She earned her Ph.D. in 1963 at Catholic University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. She served as Professor of Nursing and Chairman on the Department of Nursing here at Scholastica from 1952 to 1968. Before that she served as Director of the Hibbing General Hospital School of Nursing. She was night supervisor at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth for two years, as well as Head Nurse in Psychiatry for two years. She writes: "We're doing many exciting things at Georgetown, the most recent of which is an educational program in nurse midwifery which opened in February 1974. Enrollment in the School of Nursing has increased from 272 in 1967-68 to 428 in 1973-74. Having moved from an annual budget deficit of \$20,000 in 1968-69 to fiscal solvency in 1972-73, the School of Nursing at Georgetown is now able to look realistically to the future of professional nursing within the country's evolving system of health care delivery."

Sister Rita Marie was recently commended for submitting an exceptional Dean's Annual Report by R. J. Henle, S.J., President of Georgetown University. He expressed his appreciation to Sister Rita Marie, her faculty and staff for the inspired leadership she provided to the School of Nursing. He wrote: "When I first came here as President, I had expected that the Nursing School, from information presented to me, was about to fall on 'hard times.' Your leadership and your work with your colleagues in the Medical Center has brought about a revitalization and rejuvenation of the School which serves to the over all benefit of the Medical Center and the University. My thanks for that leadership and my hope that you will continue to dedicate yourself to it. I enjoyed reading the epilogue of your report and I think, we at Georgetown, can count on the best of times."

In a recent article in "Georgetown Today", an article written by Patricia Alberger stated: "At a time of its near demise, after decade of giving away many of its formerly hallowed functions and recently being faced with consignment the role of physicians' assistants, professional nursing should be taught so that its practitioners can be recognized as independent members of the health care team. "Nursing's heritage, the docile servant image, has inhibited change and nursing's area of operation been defined primarily by tradition," she said. Many forces have affected professional nursing in its struggle for identity.

In addition to social changes nursing has been profoundly affected by developments in the medical sciences and technology. For the same reason medical practice has since had to turn from the patient to the disease, and in so doing has created a gap in the process of patient care. The onrush of medical knowledge, the proliferation of techniques and machines for diagnosis and surgery, and the maintenance of life at the same time have so strained the human resources of the modern hospital, that patients are largely nursed by "maids and aides."

But a patient—and a healthy person—need more. "They need continuous and informed human support to maintain psychic and physiological strength and balance." She continued. "So, health maintenance takes on a more sophisticated role, and herein lies professional nursing. Nursing intervention requires much knowledge of the psychological, physiological, social and spiritual needs of a person. And on such knowledge, the patient's nursing needs can be assessed beyond "what the doctor ordered" to consideration of the person's own immediate reaction to an illness and his future health status. Helping to relieve a patient's concerns—whether pain, fear, guilt, anxiety, loneliness or grief—is the core of nursing. It requires independent judgment and action. Nursing is concerned with human beings, only some of whom are ill. And such a system of health care delivery identifies the "person" orientation of nursing as separate from, but complementary to and compatible with, medicine. Sister Rita Marie believes as health care becomes increasingly valued in our society, professional nurses must accept a greater share of the responsibility to provide a broad spectrum of health care services. Productive change in the system has to start with the values included in nursing education.



photo :Dave Heisel

Bernie Mehle's Honors Project: A study of Children's interests —Books Versus Showtime—

Bernardine Mehle, senior student in education, chose as her Honors Project to compare the interests of a group of kindergarten children in selected media as presented during storytime. Storytime is that particular part of the kindergarten daily program in which a literature selection is presented to a group of children.

Each Tuesday and Thursday morning for eight weeks she presented a literature selection to a kindergarten class at Lincoln Elementary in Duluth's west End. Each week the storybook was read on one of the days and on the second day a variety of non-print media were used. The non-print media included a filmstrip and tape, a record, felt figures placed on a flannel board and cardboard figures used on a storystage.

To determine each child's preference of the two media used each week Miss Mehle asked each child individually to complete a picture questionnaire on which the child selected the media he liked better. After the choice had been made the child was asked why he preferred the specific media and his reasons were also recorded.

Using the data obtained, a variety of comparisons will be made; the percentage of children preferring the book presentation and the percentage of children preferring the non-print media presentation, the similarities or differences in the preferences of children by sex and by age, and the reason why children chose a particular media. At the completion of the study Miss Mehle will present her findings to the faculty of the Education Department and to the Kindergarten Methods course students here at St. Scholastica.