

April 1976



FERN FRIEND NEWSLETTER

a non-profit Nursing Home for Christian Scientists
accredited by the Department of Care of The Mother Church

APRIL 1976

(415) 886-2448

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Friends:

Exactly one year ago, Fern Lodge announced plans for expanding to care for 31 guests, and today we can gratefully report that by the time of our Annual Meeting on May 2nd, you will be able to inspect the completed project — rooms for six more guests, an enlarged and modernized kitchen and dining area, a nurse's lounge, a practitioner's room, a glass-enclosed outdoor sun room, new offices, and many other helpful and attractive features. If you cannot visit us on May 2nd, do come soon — any week day from two to four is best.

Fern Lodge is constantly grateful for the support of the Field. Because of the many, many donations — both large and small — the receipt of several substantial bequests, the generous and wholehearted work of many church members who have unselfishly contributed their time, Fern Lodge has been able in the past five years to spend more than \$150,000 in expanding and adding to the welfare and comfort of its guests — and all of this without borrowing a single dollar! But more still remains to be done to improve the lot of our nurses, and we solicit the continued loving support of the Field.

We are grateful beyond measure for the patient, loving and faithful work of our nurses and staff who day after day, month after month, minister to the needs of the guests, all of whom so greatly need nursing care. Truly they are living a life of Christian service.

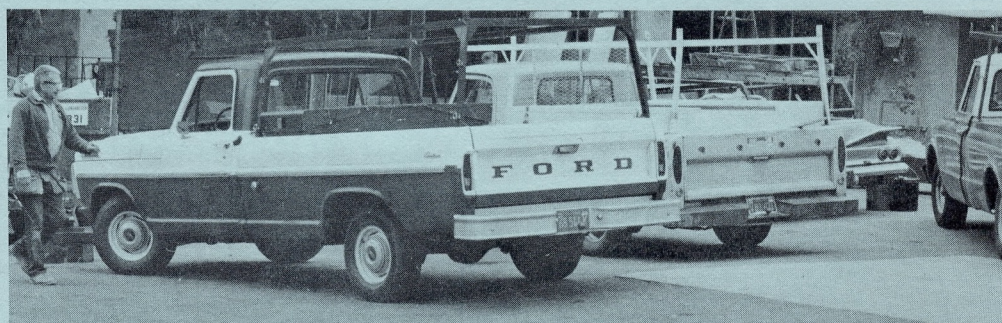
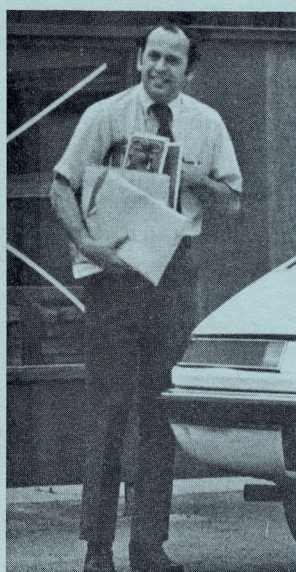
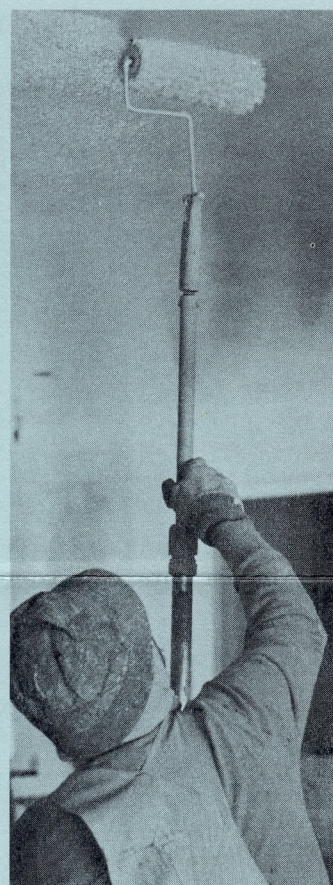
Fern Lodge deserves and needs the continued metaphysical and financial support of the Field. At the level of costs today, no nursing facility that meets the standards of the Department of Care of The Mother Church can break even when charging the rates asked by Fern Lodge. We know that many more would contribute if they realized the number of students of Christian Science in need of nursing who are alone in the world, or whose nursing needs require the professional care of a trained Christian Science nurse.

The marvelous financial demonstration that Fern Lodge has made in the past five years gives evidence that its work is Love-inspired and Love-impelled, and we are confident that divine Love will continue to work in the hearts of Christian Scientists and lead them to share the good they have received and to provide the funds needed by Fern Lodge and by other nursing facilities accredited by the Department of Care of The Mother Church. Please help all you can!

Sincerely,

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Herbert H. Mitchell, Berkeley; Vice President: E. Alfaretta Ballou, Oakland; Secretary: Hazel Wilson, Hayward; Treasurer: Carrie E. Donaldson, Castro Valley; Directors: Arthur W. Brandenburg, Hayward; Bernice Bryan Brown, Berkeley; Elizabeth S. Dempsey, Castro Valley; Dorothy Gordon, Pleasanton; Arliss B. Harmon, Hayward; Ronald MacDonald, Oakland; Marion D. Nawman, Piedmont; Robert A. Young, Hayward.



On the job are Foreman Perry Peck (top center); and Eugene DeBolt (lower left), who temporarily resigned from the Fern Lodge Board to act as designer and building consultant for the whole project. Contractor is John Ward Construction of Danville.

REMODELING SLATED FOR COMPLETION BY APRIL 15

Exciting is a mild word for what's happening with the remodeling project. Constant activity for the past three months brings the accomplishment close.

Enthusiasm for the project brought daily sideline kibitzers of patients, staff and Fern Friends. Carpenters and painters carried on running greetings with guests, gave them tips on where

not to walk, and what daily building progress to expect. Telephone and PG&E men came as strangers and left old friends.

We'll be sorry to see them all leave next month, but they will leave us with new spacious, attractive added quarters, ready to welcome six new guests.

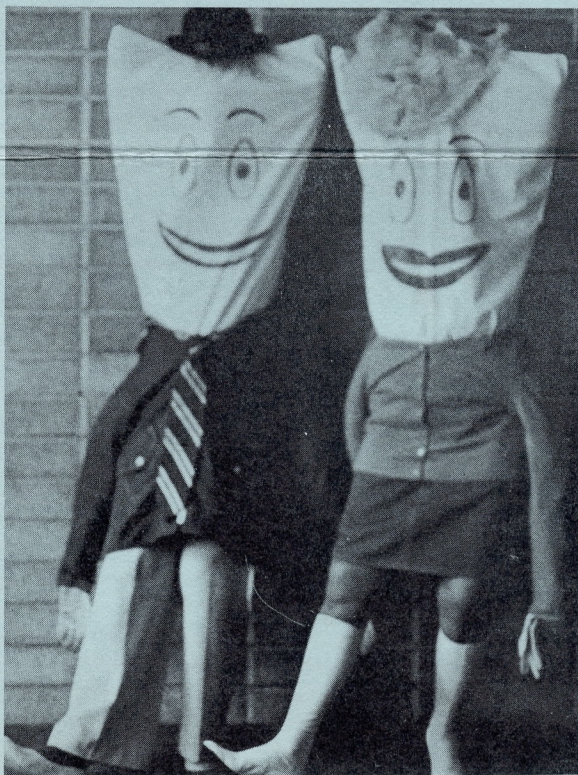
For all this, we thank our many generous friends.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

This winter and spring have been amazing. We have seen the roof raised, the walls pushed out, and sunlight streaming in on all. We had to find temporary places for the storage of food, crafts, linen and our equipment, as well as appliances, during the remodeling which is now so close to completion.

Perhaps one of the best things we have been doing this year is to have better communication with the families and friends of our Fern Lodge family with our "Kith and Kin" letters, wherein on a monthly basis we give general information of our day-to-day activities, and then give the progress and needs of their relative.

Our dear earnest staff works faithfully and hard, to care for those here. With the increase of six more beds for those folk who need what we have to offer at Fern Lodge, we have need to pray in faith to the divine Source for workers adequate to care for the increased needs. Whatever blessing divine Love impels, it sustains, maintains, directs, and supports; and Love faithfully rewards those who are obedient to the divine commands to care for one another. It is He who "setteth the solitary in families." Such love!



MRS. EDDY'S PORTRAIT

An exciting gift at holiday season was a 34" x 40" oval color print of Mrs. Eddy. Fern Friend Arthur Sohlman framed it in BEAUTIFUL GILDED CARVED WOOD. When you visit look for it in the Main House living room.



FIRST ANNUAL STAFF GAETIES

High on the list of fun days was the New Year's Revue put on for the patients by the Fern Lodge staff.

Above is CSBA Nurse Dorothy Farquhar as a prima ballerina doing "Swan Lake."

Left are Board Members Betty Dempsey and Arliss Harmon who danced and sang to Cole Porter's "Friendship."

Administrator Emily Valentine and Aide Guinevere Ingram did an authentic Irish Jig. Aide Don Lucy and Anna Lisa and Bob McVey came through with comic sketches.

ANNA LISA AND ROBERT McVEY

Two of our very cherished staff members are Anna Lisa and Bob McVey. These class-taught students came from widely different backgrounds to blend their talents at Fern Lodge, each bringing a high individual quality of thought and activity to the work being accomplished here.

ANNA LISA DARNELL McVEY was born into a Christian Science family, and attended Principia Upper School, graduating cum laude. Soon after having an article published in the Sentinel ("Why I go to Church," March 1972), she took class instruction. "It was a really neat experience that enlivened my sense of Christian Science healing," she says, "a great preparation for what was to come."

Among what came was enrollment in Fern Lodge's first Spring Adventure introduction to Christian Science nursing. Much prayer and revelation went into her growing appreciation of the place of the Christian Science nurse, and she began working at Fern Lodge as an Aide.

Living at Mustard Seed in Palo Alto and working at Fern Lodge made it a natural to share rides with Bob McVey, who was doing the same. It wasn't long before Board members and staff attended their wedding in a sunlit grove of Redwood trees in Marin County.

A year and a half of hard work at Fern Lodge culminated in her decision to take nurse's training at the Benevolent Association in San Francisco.

After earning her Practical Nurse pin, Anna Lisa requested duty once more at Fern Lodge. Patients and staff welcomed her with open arms. She also is the assistant librarian in her branch church Reading Room.

BOB McVEY'S story is a dramatic one! After four years at Fern Lodge, Bob is now the Assistant Administrator and Office Manager, with intermittent volunteer duties as painter, carpenter, electrician, and occasional "mother hen" to the patients. He is in the middle of a three year correspondence course for nursing home administrators, is the appointed chaplain at Soledad Prison, was for a time the 11 pm to 7 am librarian at the San Francisco



Airport Reading Room, and now serves one evening a week in his branch church Reading Room.

Life wasn't always this good or this productive. Eight years ago Bob was arrested and imprisoned for the fourth time, and soon sent to solitary confinement. Labeled incorrigible, he was allowed only religious books in his cell. One of them was Science and Health, and, through reading it, Bob was healed of the hard drug habit, with no withdrawal symptoms and no convalescent period. He applied for Mother Church membership, and was the very first person to be admitted while still in prison.

As proof was added to proof, the Chaplain arranged with prison authorities for Bob to visit branch churches in the area to share his healing experiences. As a result, he was paroled six years ahead of schedule. In short, he found himself at last, 'on the side of the angels' and dedicated himself to the service of Christian Science.

Upon parole, he was taken in by a Christian Science family, then moved to Mustard Seed, where he met Anna Lisa Darnell.

A friend on the Soledad State Institutional Committee introduced Bob to Emily Valentine in the hope that she could find work for him. Bob began his Fern Lodge career putting in two days a week in the office. Gradually his manifold abilities surfaced and were put to use.

So, we return to the two-fold story of Bob and Anna Lisa. The happy news now is that they are expecting a baby early in July, and have bought a lovely old house in Martinez.

FROM COTTON FIELDS TO CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE

Our efficient, hard-working night-nurse, Mrs. Lossie Davidson, who holds the fort from 10 pm to 6 am five nights a week, remembers when she and her brothers and sisters as children used to be out in the cotton fields of Louisiana at 4 am and would work all day.

When a young woman in a small town in Arkansas she witnessed a remarkable Christian Science healing of a teen-age girl given up by the medical profession. This so impressed her and her widowed mother that they asked to be shown how to study the weekly Lesson-Sermon. They had a Bible, they purchased a Science and Health by mail for two dollars, and using old Quarterlies given to them, they began to study the Science that was to transform their lives.

Lossie followed a brother to Richmond, California, in 1955 where she finished high school at night, began to do nursing for patients of a Christian Science practitioner, and joined 8th Church, Oakland. Seven years ago she came to work for Mr. and Mrs. Cox, then owners of Fern Lodge. Christian Science Class Instruction followed. Living modestly on the premises while "serving the Lord" enabled her to afford a lovely 3-week trip to Europe in '72 and another to Africa in '75.

She is moving to Michigan very soon to be near two dear sisters. We will continue to be grateful for the midnight vigils of Lossie Davidson and her quiet loving care of her patients.



RECEPTION IN NEW WING Festive Occasion

Following the Annual Meeting, you are invited to inspect the new facilities at Fern Lodge and join us for refreshments.

Because parking is at a premium, please leave your car at the Church parking lot and use our quick and easy shuttle service between Hayward First Church and the Lodge. It's only a ten-minute trip!



HOW'S THIS FOR A LINEUP? Take a gander at our nurse corps. Left to right are: Assistant Administrator Robert McVey, Practical Nurse Anna Lisa McVey, Practical Nurse Catherine Schneider, Aide Guinevere Ingram, Graduate Nurse Catherine McKenzie, Former RN Elba Salas, Administrator Emily Valentine, Practical Nurse Sophia Bass, Graduate Nurse Dorothy Farquhar, Aide Donald Lucy, Aide Orlene Beckley, Aide III Cornelia Gray.



"AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?"

FERN LODGE, Inc.

invites you to hear the address of

ARTHUR P. WUTH, C.S.B. of Denver, Colorado

at its **ANNUAL MEETING**

Sunday, May 2, 1976 at 3 pm.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, HAYWARD

1814 'B' Street, Hayward

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

following the meeting

A Reception in Fern Lodge's New Wing

18457 Madison Avenue, Castro Valley

PLEASE USE OUR SHUTTLE SERVICE