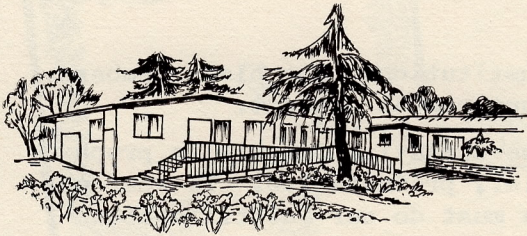


November 1976



FERN FRIEND NEWSLETTER

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

NOVEMBER 1976

(415) 886-2448

THANKSGIVING 1976

Dear Friends:

This year, as the Thanksgiving season rolls around, we at Fern Lodge have particular reason to be grateful for all the good that Love has brought to us in the past twelve months. Our Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, tells us in the Manual of The Mother Church (page 60) that gratitude and Love should abide in our hearts each day throughout the year, and this year we are especially grateful.

One year ago we were able to care for only 26 guests. Today, as a result of our recently completed expansion and remodeling program, we are providing loving, competent and compassionate nursing care to 31 students of Christian Science who, otherwise, would have no place to go. Most of these guests are elderly, more than half of whom are receiving state welfare funds. They greatly appreciate the home-like, non-institutional atmosphere which we are striving so earnestly to maintain at Fern Lodge.

To give this kind of care is costly, especially in these days of inflation, and more needs to be done! Only through the Love-inspired generosity of our Fern Friends can we improve our service. Indeed, only through their continuing donations and bequests can Fern Lodge give the nursing care which is keeping 31 Christian Science students from being thrust against their wishes into medically-operated nursing homes.

We invite you to join with us in meeting this very real need. As a non-profit charitable and religious organization, accredited by the Department of Care of The Mother Church, Fern Lodge is tax-exempt, and all donations and bequests are tax-deductible.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FERN LODGE, INC.

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

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

ARTHUR P. WUTH SPEAKS AT ANNUAL MEETING

Answers to "AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?" kept the Fern Lodge Annual Meeting audience absorbed for almost an hour. Arthur P. Wuth, C.S.B. of Denver, Colorado, quoted Mary Baker Eddy's instruction that "it shall be the duty of every member of this church...not to neglect...his duty to mankind." (Alertness to Duty, Manual, pg. 42) He continued substantially as follows:

"No law countenances neglect. Prayer for church activities is a membership responsibility. To neglect it is to neglect our church and its healing and regenerating influence in the community. Is not the same true of the Manual authorized professional services of the Christian Science nurse and the nursing home where she serves, Fern Lodge, or of the nursing staff, or of the Board of Directors of Fern Lodge? Why? Because in the eyes of the general public, the city, county and state health departments, and the state legislature, Fern Lodge and its nursing staff is proof positive that we are our brother's keeper, that we do care for our own.

"You may not have time to pray for Fern Lodge every day, nor are you asked to do it every day, but you must get around to it at regular intervals. It should not be neglected. 'Let George do it,' is not in harmony with Christian Science."

Mr. Wuth gave these five good reasons for answering "Yes, we are our brother's keeper":

1. Because we believe in and practice immortality and refuse to react to mortality.

2. Because we have ample resources to help our brother:

- The do-it-yourself handbook, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy.
- Christian Science Practitioners.
- Christian Science nurses with attitudes of expectancy as well as spiritual commitment and inspiration.
- Nursing homes and sanitoriums for as long as the need exists.

3. Because we understand scientific prayer as the most potent tool we have, and we know how to use it to pray for all mankind. As metaphysicians we must pray for and

support institutions that bless members. No law countenances neglect.

4. Because Christian Science is prophylactic, i.e., preventative. To keep our freedom we must do our identification work regularly and faithfully and not neglect this daily defense. This enables us to be prepared to help others.

5. Because we love. We love our neighbor enough to offer Christian Science to him.

Again we are grateful for the response from our Spring Newsletter sent with the announcement of our Annual Meeting in May. Over 130 contribution envelopes arrived including some new contributors. Donors are much appreciated and necessary to the operation of our Care Facility and it pleases us to have an opportunity to tell you so from time to time.

BELOW: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur P. Wuth during Open House after Mr. Wuth's talk.



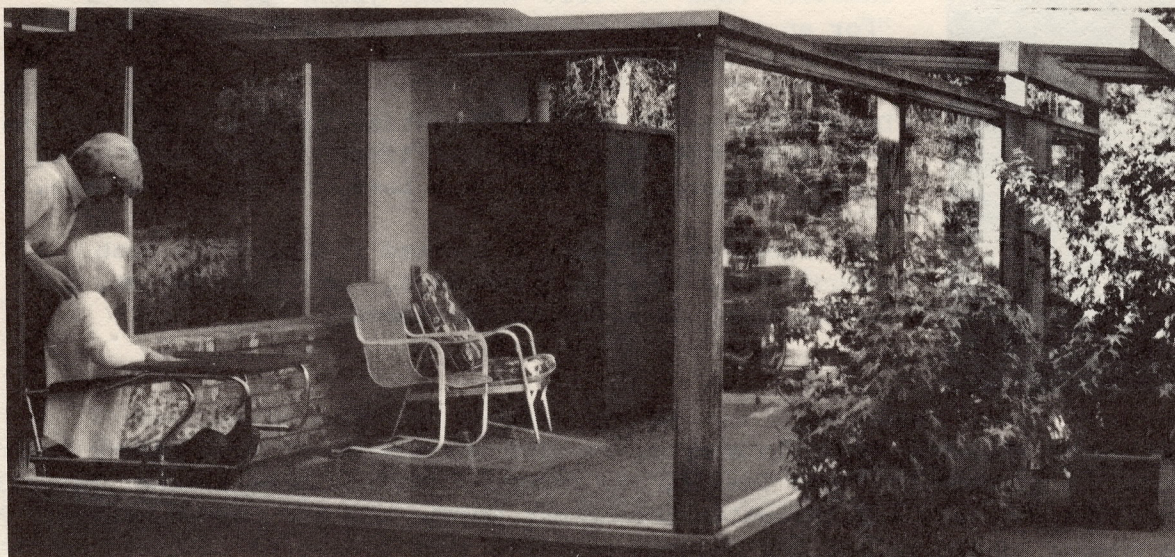
SCENE AROUND THE LODGE

Our annual meeting at First Church, Hayward, was a resounding success. We estimate that 500 friends attended, and we were delighted when fully half of those took the ten minute car-shuttle to the reception in our new wing at the Lodge. Refreshments provided by Fern Friends disappeared rapidly, but the joy of the day was undiminished.



LEFT:
All new kitchen puts out delicious goodies for Open House.

RIGHT:
More than twice the former size, the dining room is now used for recreation, study, and church services.



LEFT:
The sunroom gives the patients a view to the peaceful surrounding hillsides and the bustle of activity between the houses.

Forget-me-nots:

- ✿ that *FERN LODGE* is
"a house of prayer";
- ✿ that healing is its reason for being;
- ✿ that its medicine is Mind,
therefore:
every thought weighs
every word counts
for or against healing:
- ✿ that in the offices
✿ in the rooms
✿ in the corridors
✿ in the dining room at the tables,
we can ask ourselves — before we speak —
✿ "Will this conversation help to heal?"



Why?



✿ Because.

"Thou shalt have no other gods
before me. This Me is Spirit." ✿

S&H 4/6/75

Forget — Me — not.



This delightful poem originated with High Ridge House in New York, and was brought back from the Administrator's Seminar in Boston last month when our Administrator, Emily Valentine and Assistant Administrator, Robert McVey attended.



STUDENT NURSING

To familiarize the Arden Wood students with our operation and layout, we invited one of the classes and their Instructors to a picnic on the large, tree-rimmed front lawn and an inspectional tour of the premises. Mrs. Valentine gave a run-down on the difference between the type of care in a sanatorium and that in a nursing home. The informal atmosphere, beautiful weather and unbounded enthusiasm for Christian Science nursing combined to make it a joyous occasion with positive results.

With the completion of our enlarged facilities, cooperative interaction between The Mother Church Department of Care and the nursing program at Arden Wood in San Francisco has resulted in the assignment of two first year student nurses to the Fern Lodge staff for On-the-job training. They will be at the Lodge for consecutive two month intervals.

We are pleased to note here, too, that two more of our aides have been accepted for the first year training program at Arden Wood: Guinevere Ingram and Naomi Duncan.

RIGHT:

At the time of Open House, the nurse's station in the Annex was not yet completed. Here's a look at part of it, showing the communication panel that links the nurse on duty with each room of the Annex and House, the Administrator's office, and three outside phones. Windows facing inside and out give a clear view of hallways, outdoor sunroom, approaching driveways and entrances to the House and Annex.



PATIENTS PERSONALIZED POSTCARDS

If you have a friend or relative at Fern Lodge, you may soon receive a note from him or her on one of Fern Lodge's very own post cards. Designed by Board Member Art Brandenburg, they will cost the patient only one penny plus a nine cent stamp.

If you're eager to receive one, why not write to your friend (or adopt one)? You'll undoubtedly receive a decorated color post card in answer.

THE YOUNG DO IT WELL

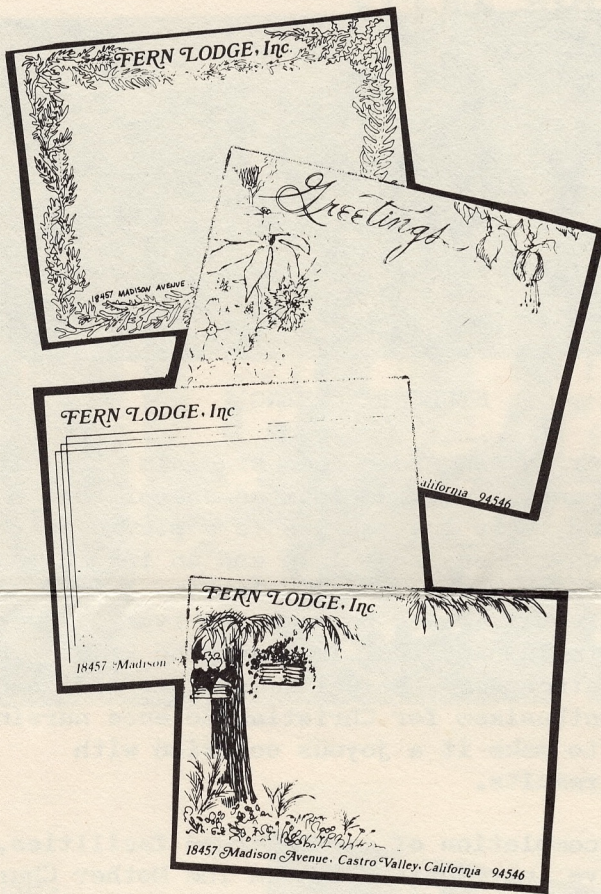
Nurse's aides this summer included three students of unusual talents who came to Fern Lodge from far-flung points to learn and to give.

TIM GESLER, pictured lower left, from New York, is pitcher for The Principia baseball nine and was sports editor of "The Principia Pilot." A natural friendship sprang up between Tim and patient Alfred Burd, ex-sports editor of the Sacramento Union. Both Oakland A's fans, Tim brought Mr. Burd an A's cap from one of the home games. Picture the two rooting for their team on TV from bedside, wearing their caps or pounding them in demand for a home run!

SONDRA WEBER returned for a second stint at aide work after another year at U.C. Davis. Her reactions to the remodelling were hearty. "What a difference!" she kept saying.

GREG WOLFF came directly from high school activities at Verdant Vales School in Middletown. He is a Hayward resident between terms and so no newcomer to the Fern Lodge scene.

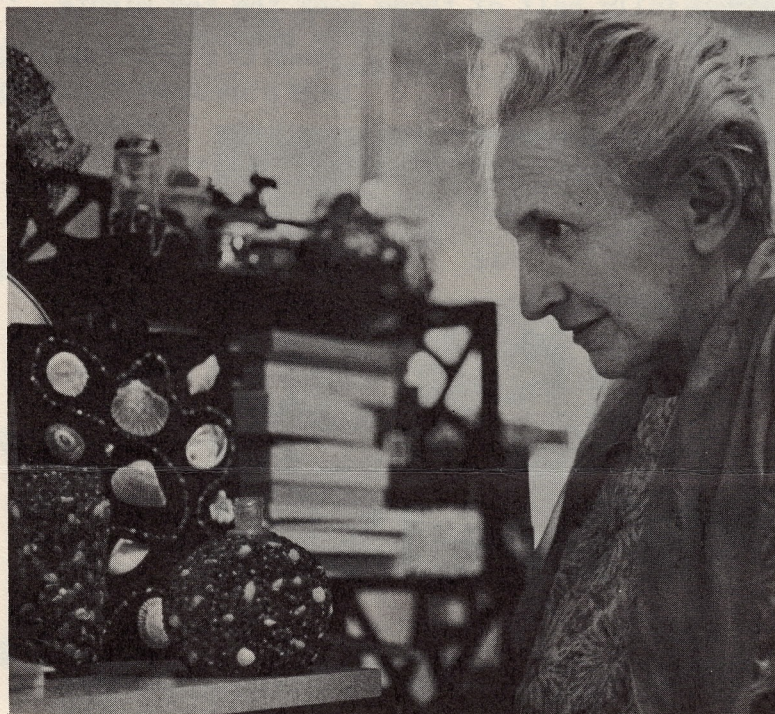
The activities of these young people ranged from walking and feeding patients to working in the kitchen and dining room, to yard work and mop-up duty. We can't say enough for their gentleness and concern, and their willingness to work hard. Good Christians, all — and good Christian Scientists.



April's Newsletter clued you in on the remarkable story of Anna Lisa and Bob McVey. Add this momentous event as a postscript: the birth of Gabriel E. McVey on June 27th, 1976!



UP-TO-DATE AT THE LODGE



LEFT:

Clara Olson is a one-woman lesson in overcoming limitations. At first glance you might be tempted to feel sorry for her, but as one friend said, "Don't 'poor Clara' her, she's healthier than all of us."

Although needing nursing care, she does liquid embroidery, makes decoupage pictures and shell plaques, decorates jars and bottles with polished stones, is an avid stamp collector (both U.S. and foreign), keeps up a running correspondence with friends and family, besides attending faithfully every Wednesday and Sunday Church Service at the Lodge.

Though she needs some help in feeding, she constantly gives spiritual food to others. She reads to other patients, spearheads the honoring of someone else who has done something special, and she is seldom heard to complain.

Though for many years unable to hold a job, she carries on a thriving business right at Fern Lodge, selling greeting cards and stationary. At one time she sold more boxes and tins of candy than any other single-person outlet in the area. Her newest occupation is collecting "fillers" to send to newspapers and magazines.

Every week brings regular visitors, old friends from her neighborhood, young people who were helped by her love and her patience with their problems, and volunteers who've found her to be an inspiration. Last May so many families came to visit that one young boy remarked, "For an old maid, you sure do okay on Mother's Day." She still chuckles over that one.

During her early days in Christian Science, she says she kept going with this familiar line: When others hate, oppose, ignore, help me, dear Lord, to love them more.

"By digesting Science, I learned to cope with each situation as it came," she says, "and now, for me, I see each day as a day of enrichment."



ABOVE: Martha Whittemore puts bow to cello once again with encouragement from former Board member Marcel Baruch. A student of Pablo Casals, she became a professional teacher herself, and played with numerous quartets and ensembles throughout Europe and the United States. At one time she was a member of the select One Hundred cellists that presented concerts in the East.