

*Use this for
this about
nurse -*

Marie Huntley

The Augustana Nurse

Vol. XXXIV

February 1937

No. 2

AUGUSTANA TO FLOOD DISASTER

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE AUGUSTANA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

The regular meeting of the Augustana Alumnae Association was held on Wednesday evening, February 3, 1937 at eight o'clock at the Nurses Residence. The meeting was called to order by Miss Edna Wilson.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was not read, due to our treasurer, Miss Genevieve Peterson being away working in the flood area.

Misses Violet Jensen, Inga Neilsen and Elizabeth Drotning, members of the class of 1936 applied for membership in our Alumnae. On motion made by Mrs. Huntley, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins and carried, these members were accepted.

A letter was read from the First District of the Illinois State Nurses Association notifying us that the first volume of the "History of Nursing in Illinois" will soon be off the press at a cost of \$2.50 per copy. It was moved by Mrs. Wilkins, seconded by Miss Burkhalter that a volume be purchased and placed for reference in the school library.

The members of the Standing Committees were read for the year 1937.

Miss Haggman and Mrs. Wilkins presented us with some of the present

(Continued on page 5, col. 2)

AMY CHAMBERLAIN HEADS CHICAGO UNIT

On Sunday evening, January 24th, the Red Cross Headquarters called Augustana for four or six Red Cross nurses to go to Evansville, Indiana the following day to aid in relief work. Thirteen Augustana Nurses responded to the call. After much excited planning and shopping for warm clothing, this group with 39 other Chicago nurses were ready to leave at 2:45 Monday afternoon. Miss Amy B. Chamberlain was in charge of the entire Chicago Unit.

From Central Headquarters at Evansville these nurses were assigned to various refugee stations where the need was the greatest.

The following Augustana nurses aided in this disaster; Amy B. Chamberlain '12, Elsa Odman '12, Elin Hendrickson '28, Esther Seaberg '27, Aleda Bringe '35, Margaret Lutes '35, Genevieve Peterson '27, Evelyn Peterson '26, Margaret Johnson '33, June Holmgren Kelly '33, Margretta Silberg '31, Clara Oberg, '28, and Alta Johnson '27,

"There were fifty two nurses who left Chicago on January 25th. We arrived in Evansville, Indiana at 10:30 that night. We were taken to the McCurdy hotel, which was without heat, light or water, as were all other buildings in the city, because the basements were all flooded. The beautiful grounds around the hotel which ordinarily is one and one-half blocks a-

OFFICERS

Edna Wilson	<i>President</i>
2711 Farwell	
Edna Thornblade	<i>Vice President</i>
427 Garfield Ave.	
Thelma Dragge	<i>Secretary</i>
707 Fullerton Parkway	
Genevieve Peterson	<i>Treasurer</i>
525 Arlington	
Josephine Anderson	<i>Editor</i>
427 Garfield Ave.	
Margaret Swanson	<i>Assistant Editor</i>
427 Garfield Ave.	

way from the Ohio River looked like a yacht harbor, the boats being right up to the door. They were all coast guard boats stationed there to carry supplies to small villages which were completely surrounded by water, and which had no other means of communication.

A very interesting sight was to see an airplane drop supplies in the river and these boats go out to get them.

While in Evansville we were all assigned to different refugee stations, which were in schools, churches, or any buildings available, and large enough. Our duties at these places were to give typhoid inoculations, carry out sanitation as best we could, and take care of the people who were suffering from exposure or any other illness.

I was with a group of nine nurses who were sent to Henderson Kentucky. We were taken there in a coast guard boat which was an experience we will never forget. We didn't follow the river course, but went right thru fields and farms. We would pass homes and other buildings of which the roofs were the only parts visible. There was a great loss of live stock because the

people had no way of getting them out of the building. We were told that many farmers shot their animals before leaving so they would not suffer. We saw some dead hogs floating down the river.

Henderson Kentucky was the only city on the Ohio River which was not flooded. The people there were very proud of that fact. There were fourteen hundred refugees stationed there from all the small villages around that vicinity. As in Evansville they were taken care of at churches and schools. There was an Emergency Hospital here which all refugee's were sent to if necessary, which helped to relieve the congestion of the refugee camps. While we were there, there was an epidemic of scarlet fever which was taken care of at the emergency hospital. The last few days the Red Cross has been busy getting the Heinz plant in readiness for all the refugees so as to have them all in one place, and so that school may be resumed. In this way they would all be taken care of better until they are able to go back to wherever they lived and rebuild their homes.

We were very glad to be of some service but were equally glad to get back to Chicago. We were so happy to have Miss Chamberlain in charge of us all. As is natural all the Augustana nurses stay close together as much as possible and when we were sent out to different places, she tried to send as many as she could together, which helped us from getting lonesome. She was so grand to us all."

Genevieve Peterson

We left Chicago Monday, January 25, under the capable supervision of Miss Amy Chamberlain. Monday evening we arrived in Evansville ready for

duty. Our individual assignment took us to various parts of Indiana and Kentucky. Our work consisted mostly in helping to organize refugee camps, giving typhoid serum, first aid work, and cooperating with the public health departments in maintaining health and sanitation. Many of us had to take great risks traveling from one place to another. After arriving at our various destinations we soon forgot any personal discomforts, and thought only of helping others. In many places light, heat and water were scarce.

With kind treatment and understanding, we managed to assuage the suffering and grief of many, who were left without any worldly possessions. Mothers with tiny babies who had been rescued from the rising waters were our chief concern. Words of appreciation from the victims filled our hearts with joy and helped us to carry on.

We Augustana nurses wish to thank the supervisors and Mrs. Kramer for the candy and fruit. Our duties seemed easier, knowing that so many of our alumnae members were thinking of us. We hope that our services did just credit to the school from which we graduated.

Margaretta Sliberg

Sidelights

Margaret Lutes '35 and Aleda Bringe '35 assisted with the delivery of a ten and one-half lb. baby boy in a box car. The only equipment available was a lantern, flashlight, one forcep, one rubber glove and one basin of lysol solution.

Clara Oberg and Alta Johnson assisted with obstetrical deliveries in a church.

Aleda Bringe wrote; "When we were in Mud Center someone told us Miss Chamberlain had been sent to Kentucky. Then one afternoon she stopped in to see us and we fairly fell into her arms. Words cannot express just how glad we were to see someone we knew. Miss Chamberlain is such fun and I enjoy her company so much. She has been both Margaret's (Lutes) and my support all along."

Clara Oberg writes: "Alta Johnson and I are in Princeton, Kentucky. We have established two emergency hospitals, one for colored and one for white patients. Besides we have given 450 typhoid inoculations and helped make rounds in all the refugee centers. There are ten in all."

From Elin Hendrickson: "We worked three nights in a refugee dormitory set up in the Chrysler Plant and when we got up yesterday afternoon we were told to equip ourselves with hip boots, breeches, jackets, and woolies and be packed ready to go on short notice to more isolated sections. This morning we dressed in all these warm and heavy clothes, thinking it must be very cold outside, judging from the temperature of our room, only to find it quite mild out of doors."

"Just had breakfast, no heat, no water even to wash with, no lights or anything. We wash our face and hands with cold cream and drink coffee and pop for fluids.

Elsa Odman was assigned to Owensboro along with nine other nurses. They were transported from Evansville by the U. S. Naval reserve boat and had a hazardous trip. The Lieutenant in charged said that he had been in rescue service for twelve years but that

he had never seen the Ohio so swift. Eleven hours were spent in the trip.

"When I come back, please detail someone to stay with me for one whole day while I stretch out in the tub, to change water frequently and serve me food. I'll never be clean again."

Margaret Lutes writes: "Margretta Silberg was going to work here in Evansville yesterday and she with her driver started out with a car, but the water came up to the car so fast and the car started to sink so the driver got scared and climbed out on the top leaving Margretta inside Margretta climbed on the engine and yelled, 'I'm a nurse, save me.' Some Red Cross boat came out and rescued her."

"The water came around our hotel during the night and the next morning we couldn't get out. Miss Chamberlain went down and took a look at the lake in front and kept wondering how to cross—so a great big man came along and picked her up and carried her across the street and placed her safe and dry on the other side. She was so surprised she just kept yelling 'you can't do it—you can't do it.' But he did."

"The refugee camps are a pitiful sight. Families of six and seven children are huddled together on three or four cots. Most of them have colds, many have the flu and pneumonia and are sent into hospitals. Water is very scarce."

"I do wish you might look into this Circuit Court Room—poor old Judge would never recognize it as such. I

looked up yesterday from something I was doing to find the jury box filled with truck drivers, some negroes and poor white trash. I tell you I just broke down and howled, it was too funny for words."

Miss Helen Sampson '36 of Portsmouth, Ohio, has been working at one of the emergency Hospitals established in one of the churches where they have room for cases that are ill but not sick enough for the hospital and where they take care of first aid work. She writes: "Before, the flood wall has protected the city but this time the water kept coming higher than the wall. The water was within ten feet of our house."

MARRIAGES

Miss Edith Wesender '32 of Waverly, Iowa to Rev. Herbert Steege, February 7, 1937 in Chicago. At home. Garnaville, Iowa.

WITH THE SICK

Mrs. Hildur Steinbrecher '08 recently returned home after spending several days in the Hospital.

Miss Aleda Bringe '35 is a patient in the hospital suffering from an infected arm which she acquired doing relief work in the flood area.

BIRTHS

A baby girl, Katherine Marie, to Dr. and Mrs. Oscar J. Olsen of Chicago, January 25, 1937 at the Hospital. Mrs. Olsen was formerly Sigrid Carlson '29.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Bush (Irene Allyn '31) a daughter, Doris Jean, December 1936.

LETTER

135 Euclid Ave.,
Jamestown, N. Y.

Dear Alumnae Members:

I want to thank you all very much for again remembering me with a Christmas greeting and such a generous gift. I am so grateful.

It was also a pleasant surprise to be remembered with a greeting from the Augustana supervisors. It, also, added so much to my happiness this Christmas.

My best wishes for your success and happiness, and again many thanks to all

Sincerely,
Astrid Wickstrom '29

ALUMNAE MEETING

Don't forget! Augustana Alumnae meeting, Wednesday, March 3, 1937, 8 p. m., Nurses Residence.

NOTICE

Please send any news that may be of interest to Augustana Alumnae to the Editor. If you change your address and still want your paper please send your change of address to the Secretary or to the Editor. It is impossible to keep up the files and for you to get your paper if we do not have your correct address. A penny post card will be of great help.

RADIO PROGRAM

A radio skit entitled "Your Family

and Your Nurse" will be presented over Station WJJD at 8:45 A.M., Thursday, February 25, 1937, by members of the First District, Illinois State Nurses Association.

Miss Ruth Blackstone, Director of the Hourly Nursing Service, will take the part of the young mother just home from the hospital, and Mrs. Bertha Goodman, as her elderly aunt, anxious to help with baby's care, learns about modern nursing services.

The program which followed was given by two student nurses, Miss Vera Gustafson and Miss Margaret Sholander. The readings and piano accordion selections were surely enjoyed. Refreshments were enjoyed during the social hour. We wish especially to express our thanks to those who volunteered their services on the program and refreshment committees due to so many of their members working on flood relief.

Respectfully submitted,
Edna Thornblade
Secretary (pro-tem)

Minutes of February Meeting (Cont. from pp. 1, col. 1)

flood news coming to us from our nurses working in the disaster. And Mrs. Kalthoff told us about her experience in her recent journey thro' the Mississippi Valley.

Miss Burkhalter serving on the Reception Committee, introduced five members present from the class of 41 years ago. It was a pleasure to have these dear friends with us.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NEWS ITEMS

Miss Hazel Jensen '20 resigned her position in Dr. Lundgren's office and has left for Tucson Arizona where she expects to do private duty.

Miss Edna Wilson '30 has accepted a position as office nurse for Drs. Lundgren, Garside and Boice.

Miss Alexandra Fleming '28 has taken her patient to California.

Miss Florence Lindbloom '31 of Pasadena, California is caring for W. C. Fields.

Miss Alma Hawes '08 is in Florida with her patient.

Mrs. Betty Doherty '24 with her husband and son Billy are leaving the last of February for Florida where they plan to spend March and April.

Miss Alfreda Lawson '29 who has been at Billing's Hospital, Chicago, has left to do general duty in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mrs. Genevieve Kaltoff '27, with her husband and son have returned from a five weeks motor trip through the south and a most interesting trip to Havana by air. Mrs. Kaltoff visited Mrs. Lynnea Gately '29 in Miami who sent greetings to all of her Augustana friends.

Miss Emma Holmquist '08 is Superintendent of the Children's Home and Aid in Chicago.

Five members of Augustana's first graduating class, 1896, were present at the February Alumnae meeting, Mrs. Anna Helt, Mrs. Ingeborg Fowler, Mrs. Josie Lofgren, Miss Louise Wensjo and Miss Louise Bylander. We were so happy and proud to have them with us at that time.

Miss Evelyn Sweet '33 is doing general duty at the Hospital.

Miss Grace Strasburg '32 of Madison, Wisconsin recently spent a weekend with Miss Sadie Holm '32 and other friends at the Nurse's Residence.

Miss Mildred Hahn '35 has returned from a two weeks vacation. She flew to California and Vancouver.

Miss Sigrid Walback '33 is working at the Crystal Falls General Hospital in Crystal Falls, Michigan.

Miss Mildred Raper '34 and her mother left Sunday February 14, for a two weeks vacation. They flew to New York and from there they will fly back to Chicago and on to Salt Lake City and Los Angeles.

Miss Marie Jahn '26 and Miss Beda Ringdahl '27 have gone to Miami Florida for a six weeks vacation.

Miss Hilma Peterson '19 and Miss Agnes Carlson '24 recently visited Mrs. Grace Espelund (Grace Ferden '27) in Elkhart, Indiana.

Misses Amy Chamberlain, Aleda Bringe, Genevieve Peterson, Evelyn Peterson, Margretta Silberg, Margaret Johnson, Elin Hendrickson, Esther Seaberg and Mrs. June Kelly have recently returned to her home after they have been doing relief work.

Miss Sylvia Lauridsen '36 and Miss Eleanor Holmer '36 have recently returned from Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet where they have been doing general duty for several weeks.

WATCH THIS SPACE