Acknowledgements:
Thanks to the many members who contributed statements to this book of memories. And to Don Onsgard who put the book together. And to Scott Richardson, Community Relations Director, who advised us. And to the hospital administration and employees who continually support the work of the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary.

Northfield Hospital Auxiliary’s
Book of Memories

The first 50 years of community services...

The recollections of members of the Northfield, Minnesota, Hospital Auxiliary as they worked on projects together from 1951 to 2001. The memories are personal, and you will find that memories differ! What they have in common is a sense of pride in improving the hospital and the community.

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Northfield, Minnesota
Memories...the First Fifty Years

Early in 1951, Mrs. Hannah Glasoe, a faculty wife of a St. Olaf College professor, had observed that the Northfield Hospital could use some volunteer help in its work. She also learned that a national movement to form hospital auxiliaries was underway. Mrs. Glasoe went into action!

On March 21, 1951, she met with some Northfield women at her home to form the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary. The meeting was held at the Trinity Lutheran Church, and several statements in this book mention the session and the extraordinary women who

![Image of Mrs. Hannah Glasoe, right, with Mrs. T. F. Nelson, President, at the fifteenth anniversary observance of the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary.]

Just as the duties of the auxiliary members have changed in the last fifty years, so will our obligations change in the next half century. Patients commonly stayed a week or even longer when recovering from surgery or childbirth or when ill. We had some "wonder drugs" in 1951, but nowhere near the array that is now available. There were few choices to be made to care for the elderly at that time.

We can only imagine how health care will change in the next fifty years! How these changes will impact on the work of the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary is not clear, but we are certain that there will be a need for the helping hand of the group, for hands-on assistance, for increasing the understanding of the work of the hospital, and for fundraising projects which will allow the hospital to purchase new equipment.

As we look forward to the building of a new hospital, we know that our work will change due to the new facility. For one thing, we will have a gift shop again, which is both a convenience to hospital patients and visitors and a fundraiser for the Auxiliary.

We will offer again the traditional hands-on assistance, and we hope to continue to make the hospital and its mission be better understood in the community.

Those strong and insightful women who started the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary on March 19, 1951, who made the hospital a more pleasant place through all these years, and who improved the health care offerings of the hospital through purchasing state-of-the-art equipment--these women have left us a legacy to lead us to the next fifty years. We accept this challenge, and we need creative and hard-working auxiliary members--both MEN and WOMEN to help us. Please join us if you want to do good and have a lot of fun and satisfaction at the same time!

Marilyn Hill, Co-President with Donna Lee
In September of 1998 we met with Jan Wallaker and Kathy Braucher for the purpose of deciding the fate of the book fair in the spring of 1999. After much discussion, we agreed to chair the book fair with Kathy rather than see it dropped after 37 years. Monthly meetings were spent planning the details and dividing up the duties.

By the end of March, most volunteers were in place, and the arrangements made for the first week of May. During the drop-off in April, all of the books were gathered from the "bookery." In actuality, we were ahead of the time frame set, and the sorting was completed ahead of schedule. We estimate that we had 50,000 books for sale. We used 150 large tables, and most were bulging with books!

The dates of the sale were May 4-8, but there were some slow times until the Saturday clean-up that went very quickly with lots of help. It was a great experience, and we appreciated meeting so many wonderful people. The total sales figure was an all-time high of $20,022.20 before expenses. We donated some books to libraries and to schools which had lost their libraries due to floods. But all this was possible only with the hard work of volunteers.

Joann and Spud Welinski

spearheaded the Auxiliary's beginning.

They were soon joined by women who eagerly came to the group, and this booklet contains recollections by many of the early members of the Auxiliary. They began to volunteer to do some projects around the hospital, to raise funds for equipment, to make the hospital a more comfortable place to be, and to take on educational and public relations projects from the hospital to the community. Through the years, the Auxiliary has had many, many fundraising projects. Some of these are described by auxiliaries in the following pages, and they include these: the book fairs (the 40th annual fair will be held in May, 2001), art sales, Phantom Teas, fruitcake sales, the High Fever Follies, fashion shows, sponsored Family Movie Nights, Christmas corsages, newspaper and rag collections, "Used A Bit" clothing sales, a Silver Tea, Parade of Homes, and the sales of dolls whose wardrobes were sewn by Auxiliary members.

Some services which were provided by the Auxiliary through the years are: Pinkie the Puppets for children, a "So You're Going to the Hospital" booklet for children, an art cart, a book cart, the installation of the candy striper's program, sewing infant clothing including the Christmas stockings, and worship and musical programs.

The Auxiliary was instrumental in starting programs such as Meals on Wheels and the child car seat program. We hope you'll enjoy reading about the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary in this volume!
The Doll and Wardrobe Project was used for years as a fund raiser for nursing scholarships.

Patterns were available for anyone willing to contribute to the wardrobe, and the clothes that were returned were beautiful! The dolls had complete wardrobes.

During the time when the tickets were being sold, the doll and wardrobe were on display in some shop window on Division Street.

One year, I remember there were three dolls—a bride, a baby doll, and a little boy. All three had wardrobes to be envied by all.

Jan Wallaker

Patterns for dolls were made in fall, 1960, and the beautifully-clothed dolls were sold to benefit the hospital. Left to right: Mrs. Arthur Persons, Mrs. J. J. Sletten, Marcy Splichal Pritchard.
For several years, my mother, Mrs. Cully Swanson (Dorothy), had been looking for a book by Rebecca McCann — a collection of verses, each illustrated by a drawing of a CHEERFUL CHERUB. Mom's good friend, Elvira Lien, had owned that book which both of them had enjoyed — making use of the pictures in some of their artwork.

In 1992, Mom was already in her 90s, hoping to have her own copy of the book. When Book Fair time came, I called Cary Harmon, who had sorted books for many years for the Fair. As a shot in the dark, I asked her if she was familiar with that book. Mom remembered the size of the book and that the cover was orange with a cherub on the front. Cary said, "I know that book! I'll keep an eye open for it." A couple of days later, Cary called and said, "I found it!" in the midst of thousands of books, Cary had found it. A miracle!

I picked it up from Cary and took it to my mother who was delighted to finally have the book for which she had been looking.

Mom sent $5 in the mail to Cary for the Book Fair and a thank you in the form of a verse. Since the Cherub book contained so many verses, Mom thought it appropriate to write her own verse of thanks.

To Cary:
To find one book in such a mess
Was quite a feat, you must confess
But you remembered name and color
And found the book for Marilyn's mother!

Dot Swanson
submitted by Marilyn S. Haugen
Mrs. P.M. Glasoe was hospitalized for several weeks in the summer of 1948 and, during this time, she identified areas of need for the hospital staff. Mrs. Glasoe was active in church and community organizations and knew that there must be something they could do to help. We discussed possibilities several times, but no specific decisions were made.

About this time hospital auxiliaries were becoming vital organizations for many hospitals in the state. In February 1949 Faribault women had a meeting with National Auxiliary information available. Mrs. Glasoe, Jessie McKay (Hospital Board member), Estie Sanders (Director of Nursing) and I attended the meeting.

Mrs. Glasoe was appointed temporary chairman for Northfield to begin an auxiliary. She obtained information on volunteering, model constitution and by-laws and invited a cross-section of individuals in the community to a meeting in her home.

Planning for the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary had begun!

Jan Wallaker

Remember when . . .

On the last work day before the book sale, when we were all “work weary weird,” Ruthabeth McElrath held up a book with a very fat and juicy, yellowish worm crawling along the top. She declared that she had found “The Bookworm!”

When Doreen Ness, who is allergic to dust, mildew and mold, would open the door a crack and pass in her pan of goodies.

When still in the Armory, we had a spring ice storm. On the way to work, Wilma Mathews fell and broke her wrist. She was to receive a large purple heart at the spring luncheon, but didn’t feel well enough to attend.

Cary Harmon’s squeals of delight when she found a valuable book.

When after an hour’s work in the arena, you wished you’d worn your winter boots.

When the men and children started to come and help us. Thank goodness!

When Delores Roberts says, “Coffee is ready!”

Mavis Karbo
What does one do when water rushes down the bank and into the ice arena during the hospital auxiliary book fair? Hope there is someone there to help, then get busy!

The reality of just such flooding occurred in May, 1998, when during a rain storm, water kept pouring into the area under the large garage door. This occurred during the supper hour, so there were not many people looking for books. Fortunately, there were several men and four young boys there, searching for treasures. The men knew where the doors were and how to close off the arena floor, also where the mops and buckets were. One kind soul went for a vacuum from Rent-All, which made our mopping faster and easier. All were very busy for a while.

I shudder to think what could have happened if our shoppers hadn’t been there to save the day!

Jan Wallaker

In thinking back over the 35 years that I have been a member of the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary, it is interesting to reflect on the change that has occurred in the part such organizations play in people’s lives. As we unpacked our boxes and began to explore our new community, one of the first suggestions my sister-in-law, Lee Dahl, had for me was that I should join the hospital auxiliary. She was a stay-at-home mother—as were most mothers in those days—and she felt the auxiliary did many worthwhile things for the community as well as providing an excellent place to get acquainted with other volunteer workers in Northfield.

The purpose of the auxiliary has certainly not changed with respect to its focus on serving the needs for money-raising and providing volunteer for the hospital. The change is in the role of the auxiliary in the lives of its members and in its membership. No longer is it an association of women covering the range of ages and interests ranging from young mothers to retirees. Rather it is now a more homogeneous group of volunteers whose career and family needs are either past or are declining and whose lives now are enriched by their auxiliary friendships and activities.

What has remained unchanged is the outstanding job the auxiliary does in helping the Northfield City Hospital meet the health needs of the community.

Lois Stratmoen

Doreen Ness contributes some books for the 1978 Hospital Auxiliary Book Fair.
I remember so well how hard Berdelle Hero worked on the book sale. She had great ideas on how to arrange and publicize and get people to work on it.

In 1951 Hannah Glasoe, who lived next to Hank’s, including Carl, got a bunch of women together and started the auxiliary. Jesse McKay was also instrumental in getting the organization going. These were strong women, earlier than women’s lib organizations, of course, but eager to make a difference.

I remember the coffee shop with Peg Whytlaw and Mary Lou Street who did not take leadership roles, but was very, very helpful as a supporter in the auxiliary. And Cary Harmon. And Mavis Karbo, secretary of the book sale, always very active in the book sale. And Jean Perman was as active as she could be. Her daughter Carol took over where she could also.

Delores Mickelson was a fine treasurer, I remember, and so very active in the book sales. Elaine Jarde took magazine and newspapers to benefit the auxiliary. Elaine Tracy was terrific. Jan Wallaker held a “Phantom Tea” which brought in a lot of money. Evelyn Holden was successful in fundraising, I remember. Dr. Rysgaard sold fruitcakes in his wife’s name, lots of them!

Minnie Dilley left beautiful dishes, a silver coffee service, and some other domestic articles to the hospital. Ruth Helgen was president at the time, and she went to see Mary Lou Street. The hospital was being built at the time. The articles were brought to the recreation room. Cary Harmon joined the two women and held a sale. Delores Mickelson handled the money at the sale. The articles were sold, and the hospital benefited from Minnie Dilley’s bequests.

Ruth Helgen

I joined the Hospital Auxiliary many years ago when there was still a gift/coffee shop, and we served the auxiliary meetings ourselves and made the dessert, etc. The first time I was asked to help serve the big meeting, we each made a lemon cake dessert. There was a large group so we made at least two big urns of coffee. When we went to use the second one, it was just hot water. Someone had forgotten to put in the coffee! We poured hot water through the grounds then and had pretend coffee.

In the coffee shop we sold gifts, fruitcake and made egg salad and ham salad sandwiches and served coffee, cookies, etc. Some customers were happy and excited, some were troubled. It was interesting.

One time when I was helping to sort books at the Book Fair, I found a book in Norwegian about the Hetlands, my maiden name. My father was from Stavanger. The book was filled with pictures of Stavanger, and I found my dad’s brother in a picture. Now my “job” is making red large stockings that are used for the newborn babies in December. Last year there were thirty-three sox. Our meetings now are interesting because of news about the new hospital, in addition to the special speakers we have. Jan Wallaker has been a gem of a leader. God bless our new co-presidents!

Shirley Tollefson
In 1955 “Pinkie the Puppet” became a member of the hospital family and was around for several years. This cute little handpuppet, with a smiling face and a pointed pink cap, was made by our members to be given to every child admitted to the hospital or Emergency room. Pinkie was theirs to take home with them, and it is Pinkie who is credited with helping dry many tears.

A little verse was attached to each puppet and signed, “Pinkie, your hospital pal.”

Jan Wallaker

The Paper and Rag drive was one of the fund raisers for several years. The residents would tie their newspapers and magazines in bundles. Rags had to be packed in boxes. These were placed on the curb on designated Saturday mornings. Friends of the auxiliary who had a pick-up or truck would provide the transportation, and youth groups or Boy Scouts would often help Auxiliaries put the bundles in the trucks. The papers and rags were stored in a garage until there was enough for a full truck load to be taken to Minneapolis. This project was continued for several years until there was a drastic drop in prices for paper.

Jan Wallaker

Mrs. C. S. Hero, right, wrote a booklet in 1960 for children going to the hospital. With her are (left to right): Mrs. Stuart Hunter, Spencer Hunter, and Dr. R. H. Goode.

A “Clothes Fair” was a good fundraiser on September 26, 1974. Pictured are (left to right): Irene Heibel, Sharon Barsness, Louise Farmer, and Mavis Karbo.
I was one of those who started working in the coffee and gift shop. Eight of us would meet in our homes to plan and work. Elsie Lysne was hired and worked mornings, maybe 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers took over, one whole afternoon and all evenings. We used to bake things at home to bring to sell! Like cookies, bars and cakes. We certainly couldn’t do that now! Elsie would make roasts, meat loaf, and salads at home to bring to sell. The auxiliary paid her by the hour and also for the ingredients. Our prices were so low!

In the front part of the coffee shop was an old-fashioned glass case which was our first gift shop. Kay Haugen and I brought some articles for several years, but much of our merchandise was homemade by auxiliary members—washclothes made from men’s tee-shirts, craft things, baby things. Some of the other women who helped with these projects are Evelyn Holden, Phyllis Knutson, Mae Greer, Florence Hovland, Dorene Ness, and others I can’t remember!

When the Dilley Unit was built, auxiliary members went in to clean every room! We washed down walls, ceilings, floors and hung heavy curtains. How hard we worked!

We held at least three paper drives. We had several deposit places, and then we (with our husbands!) collected and tied them in bundles, took off the colored and shiny papers, and used Hy Kiven’s truck to take them to a paper company in the Twin Cities. It was hard and dirty work, but we did earn some money from the project. Then the payment for the paper dropped about the same time our access to Hy Kiven’s truck ended, so we gave up the project. The paper drive was always during the pheasant hunting season in October, so many husbands weren’t around then!

We really loved the auxiliary and worked hard for it!

Vi Jones

For many years the annual Book Fair has been the Auxiliary’s most conspicuous and most profitable activity. It has also required a tremendous amount of hard work and planning. Ask anyone who has served a chairperson or as a sorter of books, especially during the week preceding the Fair, and you will get an idea of the physically strenuous effort involved in handling thousands of books.

Among the many rewards for this hard work is the delight in discovering books to be added to one’s library. I think of a fascinating volume written by the elder George Kennan after his return from his inspection of Czarist prison camps in Siberia, and of a volume of Yeats’ poems printed in Dublin in 1916, originally owned by a woman with the enchanting name of Pandora Jones. Other book fair workers could supply similar examples.

The foreign language tables have had volumes in Spanish, Norwegian, German, French (in that order of frequency), but have also had books in Greek, Hebrew, Polish and once had an illustrated volume dealing with an obscure dialect spoken only in one area of New Guinea. For some years the Fair received a treasure trove of books upon a supporter’s retirement, such as the many volumes in German which Dick Cantwell gave to the Fair, or the fine French library which came to us from the estate of Marjorie Bryden. Every year brings surprises and delights and should continue to do so as long as the Auxiliary is able to do the hard work involved in the Fair.

Cary Harmon
In the early years of the auxiliary, a popular fund raiser was a Silver Tea. The first one that we had was a lovely social afternoon that combined a style show and Silver Tea, and it was held in the Longfellow School community room. Local church women and some merchants provided the food and decorations. The stores that provided clothing for the style show were Federated, Francine's, Helen's Town and Country, Marshall's, and Perman's. This very special function was well attended and enjoyed by all.

There were other Silver Teas that followed, and they were held in the various church fellowship rooms.

Jan Wallaker

My husband I moved to Northfield in 1946. He had lived here previously with relatives, but it was new to me. We had met in the Iron Range community where I grew up and where he lived as a teenager.

I remember the beginning of the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary. Mrs. Hannah Glascoe was a truly strong woman who was able to encourage other women to help her start the auxiliary. I worked at many of the projects, probably most of them at some time or another. The coffee shop work was memorable!

Miss Minnie Dilley was a dear woman, and her brother worked for many, many years at the First National Bank. I think there were other family members here, too. The Dilley unit is named for the family.

I certainly congratulate the auxiliary for fifty years of serve to the hospital and community!

Mary Lou Street

Meals-On-Wheels was a hands-on project when it began in 1971. Pictured are Mrs. Marston Headley and Mrs. Al Prussner.

Elizabeth Lundberg and Caryl Eide won the first nursing scholarship — loans offered by the Auxiliary in 1959.
While I remember the many service projects and fund-raisers that the auxiliary had in these past 50 years, the dedicated, hard-working women and the hours they contributed are uppermost in my mind. They were and continue to be so great!

When the first addition to the hospital and then the Dilley Unit were ready to accept patients, I checked to see if help would be available to assist our housekeeping staff with cleaning. Many women responded — ready, willing and able to start washing walls, windows, furniture and whatever else needed to be done. Do you know what? They seemed to be having a great time!

Jan Wallaker

These cheerful members are preparing rooms in the new addition for occupancy. Pictured are (left to right): Mrs. George Jirik, Mrs. Roy Jones, Mrs. William Carlson, Mrs. Harold Grief, and Miss Edna Benz.

Facing the homes of Dr. Stan and Helen Kucera, Harold and Norma Paulson and Esther Skarshaug, our hospital's main entrance was on Second Street. On entering, you were greeted by a large, pleasant waiting room, and off this room to the right was the Hospital Auxiliary's Coffee Shop. Elsie Lysne prepared food in her home kitchen which was inspected by the State Department of Health. She made soups and snacks; sandwiches were made to order, and no one left without a piece of Alvera Lien's mile-high meringue pie or fruit pie. Volunteers manned the coffee shop during the afternoon hours. One glass counter displayed our gift selection for sale for the convenience of hospital visitors. Here Margaret Starks, Jan Wallaker and later Marie Schlink chose appropriate get-well gifts, or charming new baby apparel as well as a selection of greeting cards.

This was the time when Muriel Sovik arranged Sunday afternoon worship, with local ministers taking turns leading the service. It was also the time of Norma Austin's Candy Strippers and Honors Day at the high school, with scholarship for girls interested in health service careers. Of course, we had fund raisers. Hospital Auxiliary fruitcakes were a very reasonable, delicious holiday treat with Ethel Berhow Amundson ably in charge. Our Tour of Homes with Esther Norstad and committee doing their job well, and Audrey Bailey in charge of service coffee and cookies at the hospital at the end of the afternoon's coating.

Names of others who were involved with the Executive Board at this time were Berdelle Hero, Lucille Nelson, Genevieve Sovik, Gladys Schrader and Kay Haugen. Pauline Felland was our treasurer, and the Pink Lady Sheet was our member newsletter. Robert Polk was the hospital administrator, and through cooperation, everything ran smoothly. It was my pleasure to work with these wonderful women, and to those who are still with us, my heartfelt thanks. And to the others, I can only say they are great memories.

Jean DeLong
We were very busy in the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary in those early days. I served as president from 1968 to 1970. Some of the recollections I have are of the Tour of Homes which earned $651. The tour was chaired by Joan Halvorson and Marilyn Machacek. They did everything! The houses included Sheridans on East Second Street, Petricka's on Highway 19 (because they had a pool!), and Permans on Lincoln Circle.

The sale of holiday fruitcakes, chaired by Marion Storlie, netted $331. We earned over $500 from the book fair that year. We had a "Used A Bit" clothes sale which dealt in nice clothing which we sold for $5 to $10, not rummage. That was in the fall of 1969, and it was chaired by Gen Sovik and Helen Frear. I like identifying these women by their first names here--we were identified by our husband's names in those days!

The coffee shop was chaired by Charlene Schjeldahl. Sanitation requirements were being looked at by the state, and Mr. Simeon came from St. Olaf College to explain how we could be certain we were running the coffee shop safely within the guidelines.

Mrs. Headley came to us from Church Women United and asked that we help set up Meals on Wheels. I think we bought the original equipment for the program.

Elaine Kringen

We moved to Northfield in 1948 and became friends with people like Dr. Kucera and Hannah Glasoe. Hannah was the most spirited person. She took up the idea of a hospital auxiliary of volunteers as a pet project and talked about it all the time! She had more enthusiasm than anyone I every knew!

In the little cafe, Gen Sovik and Elsie Lysne made sandwich spreads and many other things. We had the best recipe for malts and milk shakes! We had a few gifts, including some very popular ash trays! The ash trays came in all colors and were the rage for a time.

I remember when we started the book fair in the back of the Northwestern Bank. Who would have thought it would grow to what it is today! I enjoyed all of my experiences with the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary, every single project.

Margaret Fjelstad

Organizing the 1974 clothing fair are (left to right): Dorothy Palmquist, Joyce Paulson, Darlene Callister, and Mavis Karbo.
I remember the excitement and anticipation of coming to the Gift Show in Minneapolis with several Auxiliaries to purchase items for the hospital gift shop. There were so many vendor’s rooms to visit, so many gifts to consider, a limited budget and a lot of conversation about the items. “Would this be good?”, etc. When we finally would agree on some items, we told the salesman, “We’ll have two of these,” “one of this,” “six of these,” etc. Finally the salesman responded with, “You’ll take a dozen of these.” “You’ll take a case of these,” etc. We then had to start all over again!

The lives of those salesmen were not easy. I’m sure they were happy to see us finally leave. I gained a new respect for the gift shop buyers!

Jan Wallaker

I always wanted to be a nurse. I took the credits in high school, but my mother was sick so I couldn’t go to nursing school right after high school. Then I got married and put off nursing school for 25 years! But I worked for the Northfield Hospital in the Auxiliary, along with some great women.

I worked in the gift shop. After a while, we hired Elsie Lysne to help manage the gift and coffee shop, and she really took charge. I visited patients on holidays. I took part in the “High Fever Follies,” when we hired a director from New York and who also brought some colorful costumes! Morry Jenness pressed and cleaned them! I danced, along with Jane Jenness and others. My daughter, Pam, formed a 12-girl dance line, at the request of the director.

I helped start the Candy Stripers. Nurse Eloise Anderson, was in charge of the Candy Stripers. They did lots of work around the hospital, and the patients liked to see them around the corridors. They helped patients with letter writing, brushing hair, and doing nails, etc.

There are so many things to remember! The fruit cake sales when Tomton Drug Store helped out by displaying the fruit cakes. The “So You’re Going to the Hospital” booklets which doctors gave to children who were scheduled for hospital stays. The Christmas corsages which members of the Auxiliary made, and which were sold in several stores. The Pinky the Puppet project. I was chairperson of the book fair in 1966 or 1967. These are projects I remember so well!

When I was elected president of the Auxiliary in 1962, it was a time when I was finally admitted to nursing school at Glenwood Hills. Auxiliary friends helped me fulfill all the duties, and I loved nursing school. I was able to attend a national auxiliary meeting in Chicago—they talked about HMO’s and drug usage which were new topics to us! Cy Kump and I went to a state meeting in Duluth. I remember that we saw “West Side Story” there—wow! After I graduated, I was charge nurse at the Dilley Unit, then at Northfield Retirement Center. After moving to Mesa, AZ for 19 years where I worked at the Desert Samaritan Hospital, we moved back to Minnesota (our kids wanted it!) in 1989.

Eloise Severson

Mrs. Elsie Lysne, manager of the Auxiliary’s coffee shop, serves food to Mrs. Bruce McLellan, R.N., in 1967.
Since it has been some twenty years ago that I worked in the Gift Shop of the Northfield Hospital, my recollections are few and far between! I do know that it was a very pleasant area of volunteering, especially since I lived nearby.

I found that I could listen to the patrons as they ate their lunch or just had coffee, because they had worries about a patient. Or their hearts were heavy because someone very close had a terminal illness. They just wanted someone to listen and not to ask questions.

As time passed, I found myself staffing the shop and had the good fortune of meeting and knowing many kind and compassionate people. However, there were amusing moments, one of which, when I heard someone playing the organ in the chapel and, wondering, I quietly opened the door and there was a gentleman seated on the bench happily playing “The Jelly Roll Blues.” It let me have a chuckle for that day.

All of us are human, aren’t we?

Peg Whytlaw

Members of the 1971-72 Auxiliary Board were (front, left to right): Mrs. E. Clifford Nelson, Mrs. Ted Scott, Mrs. M. E. McElrath, Mrs. George Paulson, Mrs. C. S. Hero, and Mrs. Donald Sword; (back, left to right): Mrs. Stan Frear, Mrs. Fred Schrader, Mrs. Harlan Foss, Mrs. Raymond Prinzinig, Mrs. David Johnson, Mrs. Terry Schlink, Mrs. Donovan Pautzke, and Mrs. Theodore Jorgenson.
Congratulations to the Hospital Auxiliary on its 50 years! My introduction to the Auxiliary was 43 years ago when our first daughter was born at the Northfield Hospital. That long ago, mothers and newborns spent a much longer time in the hospital, and lots of visitors were common. Often they would stop at our hospital gift shop, find an appropriate gift, have a cup of coffee and do their visiting. Jan Wallaker was superintendent of nurses then, and she would stop in every day to see how things were going and to see all the gadgets and gifts our new baby had received. Janice was so warm and friendly and her visits were such fun, putting me on cloud nine for the rest of the day. She has always been such a beautiful friend, and I credit her for my interest in the Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary is responsible for so many wonderful programs, and I think my favorite is Meals-on-Wheels, probably because I was on the board when it was introduced. How the program has grown through the years! To begin with, there were very few patients receiving the meals, and the containers for the meals being delivered were quite primitive compared to today.

My husband Ted and I both helped with the program, and our three little girls always wanted to go with us when it was our turn to deliver meals. They would take turns going into the various homes except where all three wanted to go. It didn’t take us long to learn why. One woman gave each of them candy and at the other place the woman’s conversation was peppered with swear words and not hearing speech like that at home, they were curious to hear what she would say next.

I still enjoy delivering the Meals for several reasons. We put so much effort into helping people reach old age, and this program along with many of the Auxiliary programs, is one way we help make those added years more enjoyable. Then, being a Northfield native, I’m acquainted with most of the recipients, and it’s a time for a little visiting.

Keep up the good work, and thanks to all who have served during the 50 years, creating programs which help the entire Northfield community.

Mary Zoe Scott

Berdelle Hero was president of the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary in 1962-63 when she called me to chair the first Book Fair. She (along with others, I suppose) had looked into the book fair as a way to earn money for hospital needs. I was very surprised to get her call because I was quite new to Northfield and had several young children. But Berdelle was very persuasive and the project sounded like a lot of fun and a good way to meet Northfield people. The fair was held in the large back room of the Northwestern State Bank at 5th and Water. We probably held the book fair there because a very good auxiliary member was Jewel Peterson, whose husband was president of the bank. I don’t remember very much about the event, but we did make money and I did meet a lot of people!

I also chaired the Coffee and Gift Shop, and I remember the wonderful people who showed up so faithfully. Once in a while we’d have to scramble for somebody to replace people who found they couldn’t come at the last minute.

I took my hospital auxiliary experience to help start the Northfield Retirement Center’s auxiliary, where I was president for two years.

June Severson
The auxiliary maintained three carts that could be taken to the patient’s room for a specific purpose: the library cart, gift cart plus personal supplies, and the art cart.

Arrangements had been made with the public library to change the books and magazines on a regular schedule. Auxiliaries would take the cart to each patient room once a week to allow the patient to select reading material. If a patient had a special request, every effort was made to try to fill the request. The hospital stay was much longer than it is now, so these services were greatly appreciated.

Jan Wallaker

Steven and Paul Murakami plan to see a movie sponsored by the Auxiliary in 1958. Ann Hero is selling the tickets.

It was fun working at the coffee and gift shop not too long after it opened. I enjoyed visiting with people who came in looking for something “appropriate for a special one who was sick.” That special one perhaps could not eat “anything we might have” and he or she might not have “good vision anymore” so a printed thing would not be appropriate. And if you were a man patient, there were not too many things in a gift category that a man might want; yet the buyer did not want to visit “that special person” without some little gift.

Sometimes the patient, when well, lived alone in a small place, so the gift “should not be too large.”

So together we would look around the shop for something appropriate, and I do not remember any prospective buyer who went away empty-handed. All were grateful that the “helpful” shop was there for them to make a gift purchase without have to go “way downtown.” Thanks to those who did the supplying! I enjoyed also talking with the many friends who dropped in for whatever reason. It was a pleasant place in which to buy or sell or just talk, and I was sorry in time to see it had to close.

Edlo Solum
Those of us who worked at the coffee shop as volunteers of the hospital auxiliary enjoyed meeting people, nurses and patients. Over the years I've donated yarn for babies' caps and knitted a few myself. Many helped dress dolls to be raffled off for scholarships for nurses training.

I was happy to support the scholarship program because my daughter Elizabeth was one of the first recipients of a scholarship.

The auxiliary had a "Coke" party for junior and senior girls to interest them in applying for a scholarship. Elizabeth and Carol Eide both applied and were accepted. Mrs. Morrie Jenness, president of the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary, had a tea at her home where the scholarships were presented to both girls.

Liz, as her friends call her (Beth by her family and local church friends) graduated from Swedish Hospital and after graduation worked for the Veterans Administration Hospital. She was married to Jon Fredlund in June, 1964. Jon graduated from the medical school of the University of Minnesota in June, 1964. They had two children, Diane and Brian. Liz does volunteer work at her local blood bank and church.

Elizabeth is very appreciative of her scholarship from the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary. At that time it covered nearly half of her education costs.

Grace Lundberg

My very favorite activity of the Hospital Auxiliary is the annual book fair. Having served in most capacities of the Fair, I have fond (and not so fond) things to remember: i.e. postponing the start of the Fair because of a large snow storm; working the Armory with one ear tuned to the tornado warning! Fortunately the tornado stayed out-of-town! Fond memories of the people I have met and of friendships renewed each year. We all work very hard (books are heavy), but the funds we are able to give to the hospital are well worth the aching backs and sore feet!

"Long ago" volunteers at the hospital wore pink jackets--thus the name, "Pink Ladies." "Pink Ladies" gave small puppets to all children patients. The puppets had smiling doll's faces, pointed hats, and "pink jackets." Many children, mine included, enjoyed these puppets. Ours have long since worn out, but there may still be a few tucked away in some closet or attic.

More memories -- being treasurer and relying on my banker husband to help me do financial reports and balance the accounts.

Assisting with the gift shop, receiving all those packages to be unpacked, just like Christmas.

Hopefully, these few memories will help record the history of the auxiliary. It has been and continues to be a very viable part of Northfield.

Ruthabeth McElrath
In March of 1951, the auxiliary started the special music project during Holy Week—Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday—and it continued every Sunday morning for several years.

Gertrude Boe Overby (Mrs. Oscar) was in charge of arranging for a musical group—church choir, college student group, students, etc. The size of the group would determine where they stood—usually it was in the stairwell between first and second floor, but sometimes in the lobby or on each floor. The staff would see that all doors to the patient rooms would be open.

This program became a very special part of Sunday for both patients and staff.

Jan Wallaker

I took charge of the training of the Candy Stripers at the Northfield Hospital, in either 1979 or 1980. There had been Candy Stripers before that time, I believe, but the program had not been very active for a time. The girls had to be fourteen years of age in order to serve as Candy Stripers. Eight girls came to spend two hours after school. They did a variety of tasks on the hospital floors, from taking out the dinner trays, picking up the trays, especially in the Dilley unit. They served water to the patients and sometimes read to them.

After so many hours, they earned a special striped hat, and this was awarded with a nice ceremony. Dar Vriesman, the hospital administrator, awarded the hats and certificates to the girls. I was Director of Nursing at the time, and I also took part in the ceremony.

I don’t really know if any of the girls pursued careers in nursing, but I know that Sara Buckstad was one of the girls, and she works at the River Valley Clinic. One thing I remember is that a woman in the Dilley Unit bit one of the Candy Stripers once, and I doubt that she followed a nursing career!

Vi Tschann

Planning some activities for the 1981 Auxiliary are: Mavis Karbo, Chris Hager, K. C. Casson, and Laurie Cowles.
I served as president of the Northfield Hospital Auxiliary from 1984 to 1989 or 1990. It was becoming difficult to get members to take the vice presidency because everybody knew it led to being president, and nobody wanted to take that office.

I saw Janice Wallaker in church, and she said, "Aha!" Then she worked me over until I agreed to take it the second year. The first year I was in charge of the book fair. We were in the Armory for a while, but then they wouldn't let us stay and so we moved to the Ice Arena.

For a long time, I have been in charge of encyclopedia display and pricing for the book fair. I wish I knew how many I'd handled over the years! We never know how many sets of encyclopedias we'll get each time. I think the number will go down, but they just keep coming in!

The fruit cakes! For a while, my husband and I stored them in our office downtown—maybe 500 of them. They were sold directly by members and also in beauty shops and other stores. Dale Touchette sold a lot of them in his store. They were good fund raisers, but we gave over the project to the Senior Citizens.

Delores Mickelson

A New York director appeared in Northfield, ready to take on some amateur dancers, fashion models and actors who would somehow create a very fine stage production called the High Fever Follies. There were many nights of rehearsal in the basement of the Northfield Arts Guild where several couples, Dan and I among them, seriously practiced our dance steps in union with some other couples. In addition, I was also cast as a charwoman who would appear on stage with my bucket and mop, and, somehow, evolve into a so-so fashion model wearing a gorgeous gown.

As I remember the Follies, it was a huge event for Northfield. There was a large promotional effort with posters and radio announcements that created plenty of discussion and anticipation. Behind stage at the (now) Northfield Middle School, there were enough smiles to send energy for miles! When the production actually began that evening, I remember thinking that a bit of Broadway had come to Northfield.

Unfortunately, most of the evening is a blur because of the almost mystical atmosphere surrounding the event. After all of the excitement died down, and the New York director had returned to the Big Apple, there was a void for a while. We all returned to our normal activities, but all who had participated in or attended the Follies had special memories.

Gretchen Freeman
Two things I remember well --

One year in Board meeting, Lois Nelson said, "I think we should have an Art Cart to go to the rooms with pictures, so patients can choose a picture they will enjoy, and I think Bea should do this." She had been in a hospital where this was done, and it was pleasing to her, and so we started the Art Cart. One of the workers made the cart to hold the pictures, a committee chose pictures, and I pushed it around every week.

Another vivid memory brings my thoughts to the delicious fruit cakes we sold. One year we didn't sell them all, so at Board meeting at least some of us bought a few extra. Well, never before or since has my freezer held 13 fruit cakes at one time! They were my favorite snack that year, and have been every Christmas season, but never as many as 13!

Bea Foss

The new art cart, holding 12-14 pictures, is examined by (left to right): Mrs. George Paulson, Mrs. E. Clifford Nelson, and Mrs. Harlan Foss.

About Northfield Hospital Auxiliary "Special Things"

As I did not attend meetings during the day, I was an inactive member for most things.

Probably back in the '50's or late '40's, I helped out at the hospital coffee show which had a few gifts, some each month.

Ingeborg Machecek had charge of the sewing group. We made candy-striped aprons and tiny head gear for the young candy striper.

We made pink aprons for the sunshine pink ladies. They were almost full cover-all aprons.

Every holiday, I made red and white Christmas stockings for babies to be sent home in. At first they were flannel, but then it was velour, when it was washable. They cost only pennies more as material was wide and could be cut to an advantage. Usually I made 25 to 30 socks a season.

One thing I do remember is when Ing served coffee, it was with her special chocolate cake with a date filling. Other than helping with some book fairs, I have been more inactive than some others.

Maxine Sleeth

During the month of December, all newborns were discharged in their big, red stocking -- a precious "Christmas Gift." Pictured are: Baby Brian Little with Mrs. Little and nurse, Miss Jean Jack.
My best memory is of the “High Fever Follies.” It was a great production! The director, Scott Edwards of the Jerome H. Cargill Co., Producing Agents, was from California and had never been out of California! He came with no coat and ended up with pneumonia! Edwards had been an actor on big television productions such as Studio One and the Montgomery Playhouse, which were broadcast live. He found it very stressful so he became a director. We had a party at our house after the production. Myrna Johnson loved the whole thing and, I think she learned a lot.

Director Edwards as an interesting fellow who lived with his sister in Beverly Hills. He told about how they decorated their house for Christmas so that it was pictured in Better Homes and Gardens and other magazines. They had huge volumes of decorations, and he told me they stored the things behind drapes and wherever they could find a spot. They also told me they elaborately decorated their Christmas gifts—in fantastic paper like metallic purple with pears, sequins, and some things. This was unheard of at that time! We asked how they opened them, and he said they just “ripped them open!” like everybody else does.

Jane Jenness and I were buyers for the gift store when it opened. I remember that we had $150, and five people went to purchase the first gifts. None of us were familiar with buying. We were attracted to a showroom where candles were burning. We said we’d take two of these and three of those.” “No, you won’t,” said the salesman. “You’ll take a dozen of these and six of those.” We tried to buy gifts that the patients could use: baby gifts, flower pots, or the sort of thing that patients could use in their rooms in the hospital.

When the first shipment of Italian clay pots came in, everything was smashed. I can’t remember if we got any restitution on that or not!

I remember arranging flowers in the reception area of the hospital. Funeral directors often brought up lovely flowers, but arranged for funerals. I didn’t like to see that at the hospital, so I’d take the arrangement apart and rearrange them. I also decorated for Christmas at the hospital.

Margaret Starks

While my memory is a bit blurred on the details, I remember there was a patient in the hospital who was considered to be the “King of the Gypsies.” Because of his condition, many gypsy people were being called to come to Northfield. Many cars bearing out-of-state licenses were visible on West Second Street, and many small groups were gathering on the lawn.

At that time, the hospital policy had specific visiting hours, and only two visitors were permitted at a time. This meant nothing to his friends, and control was very difficult.

Auxiliary members were required to be in the hospital lobby many hours of the day to attempt to control the visitors. This was not an easy task. The police were also required to make frequent stops to assist in the control.

Delores Roberts

Gift from the Rotary Club. Pictured (left to right): Arthur M. Peterson, Miss Janice Wallaker, and Stan Ness. Says Jan, “I’m always smiling when someone hands me a check.”
Fruitcakes were a successful fundraiser for many years. Distributing them in 1982 are (left to right): Joanne Dorhman, Dagmar Allen McKay, Jackie Grundhoefer, and Elaine Feroe.

In the 1962 "High Fever Follies," the finals showed Dan Freeman and Phyllis Fawcett presenting a gift to the director, Scott Edwards.

Mary Zoe Scott presents the hospital administrator, Dar Vriesman, with a check to pay for the purchase of X-ray equipment in 1977.

The dancing shoes came out for the "High Fever Follies" in November, 1961. Pictured above are (left to right): Mrs. Oliver Kaldahl, Mrs. Don McRae Raadt, Mrs. Jack Thurnblad, Mrs. Lyle Severson, Mrs. Julius Kinard, Mrs. Maurice Jenness, and Mrs. Donald Hanson.
A coaster wagon was brought for the children's ward, for children's transfer. Setting it up are Mrs. Frances Tschann and Mrs. Eleanor Stydnicki.

The 1971 Book Fair Committee met to plan the spring event. Pictured are (front, left to right): Mrs. Donald Field, Mrs. Allan MacKay, Mrs. C. S. Hero, Mrs. T. E. Rankin; (back row): Mrs. E. Clifford Nelson, Mrs. Gerald Maas, Mrs. Lloyd Harkness, Mrs. Wes Harmon, and Mrs. James Wheeler.

One of the fundraisers for our Scholarship Fund was the doll project. Here, Arvilla Meyer was the lucky winner.