

Volunteer Help Needed to Aid in Harbor Hospital Recovery Program for TB Patients

Patients Do Needlework, Make Leather Projects

By RALPH GOMPERTZ
A hospital is a place of hope and healing for the afflicted. Its nurses are angels of mercy. Its doctors are medicine's miracle men.

But a hospital is also a house of pain—physical, mental, emotional. There are the empty hours, the long, barren days, the isolation from life, the atmosphere of sorrow and of suffering.

These feelings are shared by many of the patients at Harbor General hospital. But this is particularly true of the patients in the TB ward who must cope with an even greater burden—public indifference toward their needs and public fear and ignorance of their illness.

There are 180 TB patients in the TB wards of Harbor General hospital. There are three female wards and seven male wards.

The patients range anywhere from 16 years to 80 years. The average length of stay is 1½ years, the longest stay having been 8½ years.

It would be wrong to say that the patients are completely forlorn and neglected. They are not. But there is so much more that could be done.

Some of them receive visitors regularly. But many of them never receive visitors. Once a month outside talent comes to entertain the patients.

The event is looked forward to with the eagerness of a child looking forward to Christmas and it is remembered afterwards like a holiday's happy afterglow.

But a month is a long time to wait for a little bit of cheer and joy.

Occupational Therapy
One of the most outstanding aspects of the TB recovery program is the occupational therapy center under the supervision of Emil Settlage. When Settlage came to the TB ward three years ago as occupational therapist, the facilities were only 10 per cent of what they are now.

About 75 per cent of the work done by the patients is needlework (knitting, crocheting, and rick knitting). Leathercraft is also very popular.

Determined Patient
One of the most outstanding examples of determination is the story of Max Shemer. Shemer, a civil engineer, wanted to do leather work but he did not have money for the tools. He set about determinedly to make his own tools which were so good that he was offered a commercial set of tools for them.

Shemer considers every object which he makes—wallets, handbags, belts—a labor of love and, like other patients, is glad when he can sell his products because they represent his only source of spending money.

Most of us don't have a source of income," he explained. "We must sell these products—otherwise we are stuck with them and can't buy any more leather."

"Hours, days, weeks, months don't mean anything



DETERMINATION PAYS OFF
Max Shemer, patient at Harbor General hospital, makes his own leather tools in order to make leather projects. He is showing one of the bags here to Mrs. John Mangan of Torrance, and Emil Settlage, occupational therapist.—Press photo



Young and Talented

First and Special Prize winners in the Torrance Hobby, Art, and Flower Show were: (first row l-r) Billy Schuchman, Art section; Billy Hiatt, Hobby section; David Payne, Flower section; Robbie Wollard, Art section; and (back row l-r) Evelyn Payne, Flower section; and Judy Johnson, Hobby section. The other two top winners (not shown) were: Lee Felts, first prize for collections in the Hobby section; and Gordy Jones, first prize winner for models in the Hobby section. —Press Photo.

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here," he said reflectively, when asked how much time he spent on the various projects.

Shemer is now looking forward to the time that he can get out of the hospital and go back into civil engineering. He hopes that he will be able to continue with his leatherwork commercially on a part-time basis.

While in the hospital, he also had his leg amputated. He is now waiting for his artificial leg. Once he gets that he will be discharged.

Settlage said that seeing a patient take interest in his work and look forward to recovery is the most gratifying part of his job as occupational therapist.

Individual Approach
Settlage pointed out that the hospital has a general volunteer set-up under the direction of Mrs. Margaret McAllister. Individuals wishing to help the TB ward would be included as part of this general volunteer program.

Settlage was anxious to dispel anyone's fear about visiting or working for the TB ward.

"None of the employees here have ever gotten TB from the patients," he said. "The only way TB can be transferred is through coughing. All necessary precautions are taken and the patients wear protective masks when talking to visitors."

Settlage said that those wishing to aid the TB ward could do so in a number of ways, either through patient contact or non-patient contact.

There are a number of patients who never receive visitors. Volunteers could come to visit with them, help them write letters, and possibly make some phone calls.

Clerical work—typing, stencil cutting, and filing—is needed. Some is needed at the hospital, others can be done at home.

Individuals could help prepare some of the handicraft projects—such as cutting and sorting patterns.

Major Needs
Among the major needs are the following: a combination table saw 10" and 6" jointer

with attachments; one piano to be repaired or replaced; an autoclave (steam sterilizer, 30" door, 50" deep); books, including magazines; shop bulletin board materials; one 4-coin change holder; 200 board feet of lumber for special shop use; two portable typewriters for special TB patients; cloth scraps, felt, assorted colors; yarns, woolsens, assorted sizes and colors; wide mouthed bottles (instant coffee size and shape) 6 oz.; wood scraps, any size in soft woods (pine, balsa, bass); plywood scraps, various thicknesses, both fir and assorted hardwoods; small broken toys; quiet table games; scissors; homemakers magazines; needlework ideas; cigar boxes; scrap cloth; scrap leather; cardboard boxes, assorted sizes; marble slabs for bed patients; small size TV sets for bed-ridden patients (there are 20 cubicles where TV sets are needed).

Settlage ended the interview on a note of hope.

"Tremendous strides have been made in combatting TB in the last 10 years—that's the encouraging thing. Everybody is interested in licking this problem and everybody is helping. We are winning fast."

Moose Note
3 Candidates

Pack 953 C
Families Take Airport Trip

Three new candidates were voted into the chapter at the recent business meeting of the Women of the Moose.

They were: Esther Seppala, sponsored by Joyce Clay; Myrna Allison, sponsored by Frances Coble; and Ann Lietze, sponsored by Edna Halverson.

Members planning to attend the Academy of Friendship session to receive their Friendship are: Peggy Peacock, Deloris Olsin, Cordy White, Cora Hill, and Virginia Olsen.

Moose Bowling Team won three out of four games at the last meet.

The teams play every Wednesday from 1 to 4 p.m.

All members of the Women of the Moose have been invited to come to the meets and support the team, Helen Benton reported.

Meeting of the Cub Scout Mothers' club, Pack 953C, was held at Perry School.

On Sunday, May 6, at 1 p.m., a family outing to Los Angeles International Airport was taken.

New club officers are: Mrs. A. Prescott, president; Mrs. William Kuyper, vice-president; Mrs. Kahle Myers, secretary; Mrs. Roy Dohner, treasurer; Mrs. George Woodruff, ways and means; Mrs. Edward Murawski, co-ways and means; Mrs. R. S. Butterfield, publicity; and Mrs. Andrew Hansen, hospitality.

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