



A SKETCH OF HISTORY

*T'was in the year of '86
The railway came to town.
A hospital we need to fix
City Fathers did make known.*

*A C.P.R. surgeon set up his tent
Where he cared for wounds of the railway men.
Tenting in Vancouver's weather inclement,
Hastened the birth of "City" on Pender Street then.*

*In '99, the School of Nursing began
To train eight nurses, dedicated all.
They worked on wards on a twelve hour plan,
After which in class, chairs were straight and tall.*

And so our School of Nursing began. There are so many facets of interest in reviewing its history that one could write on and on. Time and space limitations lead the writer to share with you only the highlights of educational facilities from the beginning to the present.

In 1901, Vancouver City Hospital became known as the Vancouver General Hospital. In the beginning and for a number of years, much of the teaching and learning took place at the bedside. Lectures were presented by the Superintendent of Nurses and some of the doctors. At the end of a twelve hour shift on wards, the student nurses gathered in the Superintendent's living room, seated on straight backed chairs and with notebooks balanced on knees, to glean knowledge from the lecturer.

A great event for the hospital and the School occurred on January 8, 1906. Patients and staff moved into the first wing of the new hospital in the Fairview district (the north east wing of Heather pavilion). Vancouver's population was growing rapidly and proportionately, the health care needs grew. In accord, V.G.H. and the School of Nursing grew. Classroom space for student nurses was so limited that the class was divided into small groups and lectures were repeated for each group.

The University of B.C. was situated on property immediately adjacent to V.G.H. (10th Avenue between Willow and Laurel Streets). From 1919 to 1960, University nursing students received their clinical experience with V.G.H. nursing students in a combined program.

In 1926, U.B.C. moved from the Fairview campus and its vacated chemistry building became our School's first lecture hall. There was a large amphitheater with terraced rows of seats, each with an armrest writing desk, a demonstration room where various procedures were taught and practiced, a laboratory and a few smaller classrooms.

1949 brought the beginning of the next phase of growth and development. Construction of the 'new' Student Nurses' Residence began and the building was ready for occupancy the following year. By 1953 adjustments were made to accommodate the School of Nursing. Classrooms were located on the sub-ground floor, faculty offices in one wing on the first floor, and the library was in a sunny room on the ninth floor. Student residence facilities occupied the remainder of this building on the southwest corner of 12th Avenue and Heather Street. Over the years, the School outgrew these facilities which once seemed spacious.

1985 - January 17th and 18th were exciting days of moving for the School of Nursing. Our bright, new building is across the street from our early beginnings on the old U.B.C. campus.

The School offers thanks to so many people, past and present who have supported our School of Nursing's needs. Our Hospital's Board of Trustees...