

# SS HOPE—Initiation Into World of Aseptic And Septic for Many

**Editor's Note** — Lee-Olive Harrison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Harrison, formerly of Birmingham, is serving aboard the goodwill hospital ship SS HOPE. This is one of a series of dispatches she is sending The Eccentric explaining the work of the project ship. Also serving on the ship since Sept. 1 has been Dr. Robert S. Knighton, of 21486 Lathrup Village. Knighton had been a neurosurgeon at Henry Ford Hospital.

So far in these letters and articles you have heard a little bit about our trip down to Peru, to the admissions office and to the laboratory. I would like to give you some idea of the "Sailed Operations" and its affiliated fields.

On board the S S HOPE there are three operating rooms. Two are for all types of general surgery and the third is used as the orthopedic room for eye and minor procedures.

The O. R. suite also includes the central supply room where all the necessary supplies for the O. R., the wards, the clinics and the immunization program made up, sterilized and inventoried.

AT PRESENT there are nine United States nurses, including our supervisor, who represent seven different states from Coast to Coast. The girls have worked in many different places so we have a very good cross section. On the staff there are also five Peruvian nurses, two Peruvian orderlies and one aide. Neither the orderlies nor the aide have ever worked in a hospital before so, to begin with, there was a teaching period.

The world of septic and aseptic, sterile and contaminated, septic and limpo, are very difficult to understand and to teach. There is such a fine line sometimes that even we have difficulty seeing it.

At this point, we are very pleased with our auxiliary workers and feel certain that some of what they are learning will sink in and help Peru in a very small way.

EACH MONTH, one U. S. nurse takes charge of the central supply room and the rest of us cover the entire suite.

The usual day (if you can call it that) is not much different than it is in the States. Our rooms are smaller, we have many observers but no gallery, our "flash" sterilizer takes 20 to 30 minutes in comparison to 10 to 15 minutes in the States; our scrub sinks are right out in the lobby.

## Social Security —How It Works In Birmingham

(Special to the Eccentric)  
What price Social Security in Birmingham? Recent studies show that it is more of a bargain for some people than for others. According to figures released some months ago by the Social Security Administration, residents of Birmingham, together with other living in Oakland County, were getting benefit payments at the rate of \$39,539,000 a year, as of last January.

The checks were going to retired and disabled workers and to families of former workers. Since then, the rate has gone up locally, with more and more people qualifying for retirement pensions.

FOR MOST of them, the returns far exceed the amounts they put into the system via their Social Security taxes.

The way it works out is explained by the Tax Foundation. Under existing and estimated future rates (it is shown) a young man in Birmingham, entering the labor force this year at the age of 20 and paying maximum taxes until retirement in year 2007, will pay \$2,798 into the fund.

Adding interest at the rate of three per cent, the payment builds up to \$18,709. A similar contribution will be made in his behalf by his employer.

HOW MUCH do he and his wife stand to get back from the pension fund? If they live the normal number of years thereafter, they will receive up to \$38,700 in benefits, says the Tax Foundation.

For Birmingham's 20-year-old male population, which numbers 42 (to take this one group as an example) the tax payments plus interest would amount to \$785,000 in the 45-year period and the ultimate returns, assuming a normal life span, to \$1,625,000.

For those who are older, the bargain is a bigger one. A man who retires this year, after having paid the top rate since Social Security started, in 1937, will have contributed \$5,700. He and his wife will collect over \$12,000 under normal conditions.

where all the linen is folded and with all the traffic of medical students, interns, residents, surgeons, orderlies, aides, anesthesiologists and nurses.

ONE OF THE U. S. Nurses, Janet DiBona, a graduate of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, is the clinical instructor. She is in charge of all the students and works with them in the O. R. as well as in the class room. After she feels it is no longer necessary to work side by side with them she works as a circulator while the student scrubs (hands, instruments, etc.) for the surgeon.

Each one of us is actually a teacher and each U. S. nurse works with all the students at one time or another.

At first we scrubbed them while they circled while they circled and then they scrubbed and then they scrubbed. Now they have progressed to the point that they can handle a room almost by themselves. We are very proud of our students and know that we will leave behind a few good "instrumentalists" when we finish down here.

BESIDES working on the ship we are also working in the wards of a surgeon, a scrub nurse, a circulating nurse and an anesthesiologist to cutting areas. During the month of August we performed several major operations at the flexible hospital in Trujillo and several at the Ovario (workers) and some of the nearby haciendas. Our average case load for the four months that we have just completed is about 160 cases per month. This includes all operations done of the ship and by off-shore HOPE teams.

WE ARE NOT only teaching nurses and "instrumentalists" on the ship. One of the main reasons for coming to this part of Peru was to work with the University of Trujillo Medical School. The medical students have been divided into small groups and each group spends a specified time in each specialty. There are only two general surgeons on each rotation so the students in surgery are divided among them.

There are far too many in each group for them all to assist on every operation so we naturally have anywhere from one to ten students observing every case. This not only makes the room crowded but also tends to keep us busy — we not only have to clean, scrub, around and under them but we also watch them like hawks so they won't contaminate any sterile objects.

BEING a member of Project HOPE and working on the ship has been quite an experience and still continues.

Before I close this article I would like to introduce Priscilla Strong, our chief nurse anesthetist from Pittsfield, Mass., who will give you some information about the anesthesia department. She was on board last month and has had 130 visits many of the islands in and around Indonesia.

"One of our goals in coming to Peru was to work in various areas of the country. Although Trujillo is our base, we, in the anesthesia department, have selected three students, two nurses and one doctor from different areas in Peru to study anesthesia aboard the S S HOPE."

The areas include Tarma, in the Sierras, Lima, the capitol of Peru

## Lady Luck Runs Out on Lady Cat

There's a certain blackcat, wandering around the area — presumably — who has run out of luck.

She's lost.

Her name is Tar Baby and she has led a life in which the number 13 has played a big part.

Her mistress, 16-year-old Caroline Winslow, calls her cat "Tar" for short. Caroline Cross, of Blooming Township, returned to Tar to come to live with them six years ago and whatever number it was, the day was the 13th.

TAR IS a great-great-great grandchild who has had 13 kittens in the last 13 months. Periodically, she leaves her residence at 2044 Chariton Cross, Blooming Township, to return to the Winslow's former Manor Road home in Birmingham.

HER GREAT-GRAND-DAUGHTER, Bartholomew, misses her. So do the latter's three children, and the family dog, a big shaggy pooch named "Mac."

Most of all, Caroline misses her — so come home, Tar. All is forgiven.

the coastal region in T. Ujillo. We hope, on completion of our tour here, to leave behind two competent nurse-anesthetists and one anesthesiologist.

Our permanent staff of four American nurse-anesthetists and rotating anesthesiologists manage to keep quite busy during the course of the day. When not supervising clinical work in the operating rooms aboard ship, there are always classes.

"Explaining medical terminology in a foreign language is a bit of a challenge, but amazingly enough we can see progress. Our most recent addition to the department neither speaks nor understands English which means our Spanish is improving daily."

"Our Anesthesiologist, along with his resident, takes part in the experimental lab at the medical school demonstrating to students the different effects of anesthetic drugs on animals."

IT IS ONLY fair to share our experiences on shore so we alternate working at the local hospital, Belen, five days a week. There we try to exchange our knowledge in the field of anesthesiology with the anesthesiologist and his three nurse-anesthetists. It is on shore one has to use one's ingenuity.

"It is good for us to have to be flexible in our work — not to have all the latest equipment at our fingertips — and to be able to use others how to use what they have to the greatest advantage."



ENJOYING THE fruits of her father's hobby is Nancy Nitschke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nitschke, 2363 Tilbury Place, Birmingham. Nitschke's hobby is growing fruit. Besides a grape trellis over one of the windows of their home, Nitschke has a backyard orchard of more than 87 apple, peach, pear and plum trees.

## NATURE NOW

The blooming season began for the largest group of flowers in the cool, shady woods of springtime before overhanging leaves made a canopy over the hills, the meadows and the swamps with the first killing frosts of autumn.

The blooming time of a flower is not an accident. It does not take place differently but depends upon its inherited characteristics which are controlled to a great degree by variations of the intensity of light, changes in temperature, differences in atmospheric moisture and various nutritional balances.

MOST LATE blooming plants include our asters belonging to the composite family. The name suggests many flowers in one head, an arrangement characteristic of this group.

By means of crowding their flowers into clusters they increase and concentrate the mass of attractive color and scent which is a lure for insects and other pollinators. This is particularly true of small flowers. Daisy, dandelions and asters are typical of this arrangement. Here the community of flowers that forms the head works together to solve the same problems of attraction, protection and distribution that formerly confronted the individual flower.

# The Birmingham Eccentric Features

## Backyard Orchard Result of Hobby

By ALICE WESSLES BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

You can have a "live" eyebrow over a window which welcomes too much of the sun for the good of your interior colors or your furnishings.

(Winter is a good time to build it.) This problem has been handled beautifully by our local attorney, fruit hobbyist, Bob Nitschke, 2363 Tilbury Place. He has hauled grape vines providing shade to the bonus of beautiful fruit showing to frame the picture.

I have introduced you to him before and he has been recognized here and abroad for his keen cultural methods in the growing of all kinds of fruit. Often a hobbyist has the practical answers for the professional grower, so Mr. Nitschke has many visitors from experimental growing stations.

THIS QUEST for good fruit all began because ten years ago Bob asked his wife Jane, "Can't you find better tasting fruit at the market. Surely yours of years past wouldn't be inclined to rave about our fruit today as they did in their writings."

NITSCHKE HAS two 40 foot hedges with 20 apple trees growing in a five pound box of Epson Salts (for magnesium sulfate) in a 15 gallon tank with an insecticide. Grapes are only sprayed in the spring.

Plums receive two sprayings in the spring.

Nitschke is a man busy with his legal profession who has developed his hobby on his own premises, delving deeply into all facets of the subject so that now he has information to share with the best authorities in the country.

THIS STORY could be a challenge for many of our business executives who have retired and call home their headquarters. There is plenty of room "at the top" for those who are willing to invest the time to make their hobby an instrument for the betterment of others.

By Lydia King Frehse  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

## 'Composites' Highly Specialized

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THE COMPOSITES, therefore represent the highest specialization of flower structure and composition.

James M. Hare, Chairman of the Michigan State Safety Commission, reports that national highway death rates for the first half of the year were up five percent compared to a decrease in Michigan of a minus nine percent.

## DOWN TO EARTH

By ALICE WESSLES BURLINGAME  
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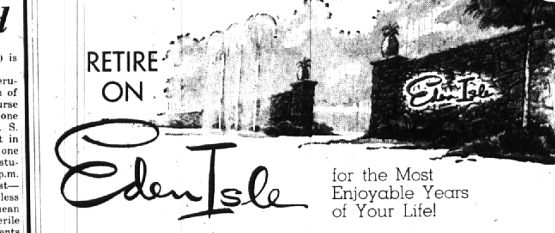
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