

Historical Happenings

HONOR MORRIS AND HER 'CARE OF THE SICK'

On 9th April 1976 in the former St John Centre at 14 Arthur Street, Unley the 110 page book *Care of the Sick in the Home* was launched.

The event was quite an affair. The book was launched by Sir Mark Oliphant, the Governor of South Australia and the guests included Wing Commander A H Toyne, the National Deputy Director of the St John Ambulance Association (who had come from Canberra for the occasion), The Hon. Don Banfield MP, the South Australian Minister for Health and Dr Robert Britton Jones, the Chairman of the St John Ambulance Association in South Australia. A copy of Honor's book donated to the museum by Bill Pavlik has the autographs of these dignitaries and of the author inside the front cover.

The author of the book was Sister Honora Laura Morris who had been assisted by other St John nursing personnel especially Dorothy Mitchell. Honora Morris was generally called Honor Morris by her peers. However, if you were a student nurse no such familiarity as a Christian name was to be contemplated! Sister Morris was a triple certificated nurse who was one of the main Tutor Sisters at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. She administered the post-graduate intensive care program for nurses there. Sister Morris insisted that every little detail had to be done absolutely correctly. A simple thing such as a made bed had to have beautifully sculpted mitred corners. Sister Morris retired from the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1979, having taught an estimated minimum of 4,000 nurses over a period of 24 years.

Honor Morris joined the Mitcham Nursing Division in the 1950s as that Division's Nursing Officer. Later she became the District Nursing Officer for South Australia. She was very active in promoting and adjudicating at nursing competitions. Honor was admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Sister (now termed a Member) in 1964. She was promoted to Officer in 1967, Commander in 1971 and was made a Dame of Grace in 1977.

Honor Morris retired from St John Ambulance in 1980.

She died in October 2007.

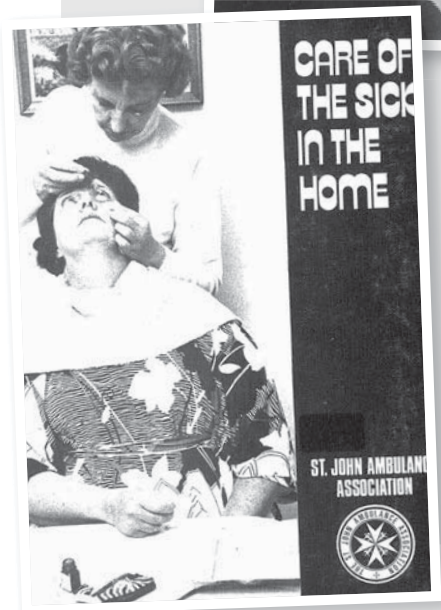
Question: The work of how many women is recorded in the reference book for this article?

Brian Fotheringham
Chairman

Reference: Celebrating Women in St John Ambulance, Our Past, Present and Future, edited by Sally Hasler and Ian Howie-Willis, St John Ambulance Australia, 2012.



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*Answer to the last question:
The name of the place on the coast of Maine, USA, directly east of Sangerville is 'St John'.*



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