

patients. Charter members were Mrs. E. D. Broadhurst, Mrs. Clem Wright, Mrs. W. C. A. Hammel, Mrs. Annette Tinsley, Mrs. J. P. Turner, Mrs. Julian Price, Mrs. Ceasar Cone and Mrs. V. B. White.<sup>11</sup>

The committee opened a six-room cottage on Glenwood Avenue near Lee Street in May, 1920, with accommodations for three or four patients. These beds were filled and more room was needed, so porches were enclosed to provide more bed space. Mrs. Clara J. Peck was in charge of the little hospital as nurse and general manager. A Greensboro Record dispatch of November 16, 1940, said of her, "She visited in homes all over the city to minister to the sick ones who could not go to the hospital. She visited in the city schools as a health nurse and lecturer. By precept and example she instilled into the minds of the people the gospel of the urgent demand for a tax-supported public health department and sanatorium for tubercular patients."<sup>12</sup>

### Mrs. Peck Recalled

Dr. C. C. Hudson, then Greensboro health officer, wrote on March 24, 1931: "The first public health nursing work (in Greensboro) was apparently started about 1911 or 1912 by an undergraduate nurse, Mrs. Clara J. Peck. Later a Mrs. MacGill, another undergraduate nurse, was employed. This work was conducted under the auspices of the District Nurse and Relief Committee which had charge of the sale of Christmas seals. Most of the work was along the line of tuberculosis.

"In 1919 Mrs. Blanche T. Lambe, a graduate nurse, was employed as school nurse. . . ."<sup>13</sup>

Mrs. E. D. Broadhurst, chairman of the District Nurse and Relief Committee, said of Mrs. Peck, "Mother Peck was an inspired Florence Nightingale who gave her life without stint in the cause of public health in Greensboro through her ministries as nurse in the homes of the poor and needy, in the schools of the city, and in the little tubercular hospital. I think the city of Greensboro honored itself as well as the memory of this great woman when one of the city schools was named the Clara J. Peck School. . . . She became known as Mother Peck by all those who worked with her."<sup>14</sup>

The foresight of Mrs. Peck and the District Nurse and Relief Committee is evident in a statement of their purpose as reported in The Greensboro Record of Nov. 16, 1940: "Let us build our organization and a small tubercular hospital as a demonstration to the public

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of the need of an adequate hospital and a greatly enlarged public health service in the city and county, and then let us disband."

Inspired by Mrs. Peck's pioneer work, Mrs. Max T. Payne, wife of a North Carolina tax official and daughter of a Greensboro bank president, with other women of the city "prevailed upon the board of commissioners of Guilford County to submit the question of the issuance of bonds to provide funds for the erection of a county tuberculosis hospital or sanatorium for the treatment of its citizens suffering from the disease.

"The proposal was submitted to popular vote and with Mrs. Payne and others actively campaigning resulted in an overwhelming majority in favor of the institution."<sup>15</sup>

### Took First Patients

The Guilford County Tuberculosis Sanatorium took its first patients in 1923. The sanatorium, then providing 100 beds, was built midway between Greensboro and High Point, the first such county institution to be constructed in the state. Mecklenburg Sanatorium was next and that of Forsyth County was third.<sup>16</sup>

The District Nurse and Relief Committee directed tuberculosis control in Greensboro for several years until it was found necessary to extend activities to the entire county. At this time the Guilford County Tuberculosis Association was organized with Mrs. Payne serving as president for several years.<sup>17, 18</sup>

The Greensboro Tuberculosis Association became the successor to the Guilford County Tuberculosis Association in 1940, with Mrs. Payne taking a leading part in this move to again concentrate in the city while serving rural Guilford County at the same time.<sup>19</sup>

In 1924 Mrs. Payne was appointed by Gov. Angus McLean as a member of the board of directors of the state sanatorium at Sanatorium, N. C. (now McCain). She was the first woman so honored. Mrs. Payne was reappointed by Govs. O. Max Gardner, J. C. B. Ehringhaus and Clyde R. Hoey. In 1935 she was elected president of the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association.<sup>20, 20-A</sup>

The Greensboro Junior League, at first known as the Charity League of Greensboro, sponsored the sale of Christmas Seals from 1928 through

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1939. During this time the amount of money collected grew from \$1,871.91 in 1928 to \$3,100 in 1939. Other yearly amounts were: 1929, \$1,500; 1930, \$1,300; 1931, \$1,006.95; 1932, \$1,040; 1933, \$795.45 (reflecting effects of the Great Depression); 1934, \$819.19 (reflecting effects of the Great Depression); 1935, \$1,131.40; 1936, \$1,531.50 (workers outside Junior League were used this year for the first time); 1937, \$3,400 (mail sales began this year); 1938, \$3,269.44.

### Ways Funds Were Used

Ways in which funds were expended during this period of Junior League sale:

1. Regular contributions to the Greensboro Nursing Council.
2. Contributions to a milk fund for needy children.
3. Operation of clinics for white and Negro children and adults.
4. Emergency hospital and medical care.
5. Regular contributions to the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association.

During the period of Junior League sponsorship 75 per cent of the funds collected were applied to these projects and 25 per cent were used by the state and national associations for program development.<sup>21</sup>

Guilford County Tuberculosis Sanatorium, opening in 1923, operated until Christmas Eve, 1955, and patients, about 45 in number, were moved to state sanatoriums for occupancy of vacant beds there, primarily because it was felt this action would be more economical to the taxpayers of Guilford County and North Carolina. Dr. M. D. Bonner, superintendent when the sanatorium closed, came to the sanatorium on Aug. 8, 1932 to work with the first superintendent, Dr. J. L. Spruill, under whom the sanatorium had become an invaluable institution in the county's fight against tuberculosis. Dr. Bonner became superintendent on May 1, 1934, shortly after the death of Dr. Spruill. At peak capacity the sanatorium cared for 142 patients.<sup>22</sup>

Further explanation of the closing of the sanatorium is offered in "The First 50 Years," a publication of the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association, which says on Page 10: "Because of the building program which increased the number of beds in the state sanatoriums to over 2,000, and because the average hospital stay of the patient has been

reduced through the use of new drugs, the state for the first time has eliminated the waiting list. Not only can they take in all new cases of tuberculosis, but they have been able to take patients from many county sanatoriums, thereby allowing the counties to discontinue their operation."

In addition to unselfish service to the sanatorium, Dr. Bonner has worked faithfully as a leader with Greensboro and High Point Tuberculosis Associations, and with the state and national associations. In 1948 he served as president of the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association. Now engaged in private practice, he continues tuberculosis control by operating clinics for the Guilford County Health Department in both the Greensboro and High Point health centers. Throughout his superintendency of the sanatorium, Dr. Bonner was assisted by a faithful staff of devoted employees.

### First Secretary

Mrs. Paul (Louise) Guthrie became the first executive secretary of the Greensboro Tuberculosis Association on March 1, 1941, following its organization in 1940, working for a brief period on a part-time basis. Mrs. Guthrie also served as case worker, kept records at the clinics, conducted health education among the schools and the public, and handled publicity for the association.<sup>23</sup>

Mrs. J. Henry (Hazel) Burnett Jr. worked as a volunteer until Sept. 1, 1941, when Mrs. Mildred T. Greene became the first full-time executive director. Mrs. Greene, now Mrs. W. W. Sproul, has continued in the position since that time.

Mrs. Burnett was chairman of the Christmas Seal sale in 1940, first year when the sale was under the sponsorship of the Greensboro Tuberculosis Association, and \$4,604.56 was collected. She had served as assistant chairman in 1939, last year of Junior League sponsorship.<sup>24, 24A</sup>

So numerous are the Greensboro organizations which have provided volunteer help, that a full listing will not be given. The Junior Woman's Club and the Junior Chamber of Commerce are two such groups which responded year after year, helping the association in times of need.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Sproul, the Greensboro Tuberculosis Association has grown steadily in service to the community and in an-

nual receipts from the Christmas Seal sale. Annual funds collected are: 1941, \$4,773.99; 1942, \$5,452.79; 1943, \$12,000; 1944, \$18,265.35; 1945, \$16,850.09; 1946, \$20,643.20; 1947, \$22,425.80; 1948, \$20,416.04; 1949, \$25,083.54; 1950, \$21,414.54; 1951, \$22,780.82; 1952, \$27,481.70; 1953, \$29,006.96; 1954, \$30,264.98; 1955, \$30,054.89; 1956, \$29,544.92; 1957, \$31,117.64; 1958, \$31,000.<sup>25</sup>

Other outstanding accomplishments during Mrs. Sproul's tenure:

1. Continued for some years support of clinics for White and Negro children and adults.<sup>26</sup>
2. Continued employment of Rosalee McConnell, R. N., as Negro follow-up nurse.<sup>27</sup>
3. Cooperated with Guilford County Health Department in mass X-ray survey in 1943.<sup>28</sup>

### Worker Employed

4. Mrs. Henrietta A. Mebane, Negro teacher and nurse, employed as a health education worker in 1946.<sup>29</sup> She served until 1949.
5. Miss Eva Reid employed in 1946 as a teacher and occupational therapist for patients at Guilford County Tuberculosis Sanatorium.<sup>30</sup>
6. Paid for \$17,000 worth of X-ray equipment for Guilford County Health Department.<sup>31</sup>
7. Contributed \$20,000.00 to Guilford County Sanatorium for research in streptomycin. All of this amount, except \$2,000.00, was raised in addition to the regular Seal sale. "One ex-patient whom streptomycin is believed to have cured has been assisted in returning to school where he has recently received a Master's Degree and is working toward his Ph.D." <sup>32, 32-A</sup>
8. Established Joint Tuberculosis-Heart Association program.<sup>33</sup>
9. Routine chest X-rays financed at L. Richardson Hospital for one year.<sup>34</sup>
10. Mrs. Willis E. (Laura) Lowe Jr. employed as health educator. She served from September, 1951 to July, 1952.<sup>35</sup>
11. Mrs. Ben Wheeler (Mary) Farthing employed Sept. 1, 1952, as health educator succeeding Mrs. Lowe, who resigned. Mrs. Farthing served until March 20, 1959, when she resigned.<sup>36</sup>

12. Cooperated in mass industrial X-ray survey in Greensboro.<sup>37</sup>
13. Cooperated in Gibsonville X-ray survey.<sup>38</sup>
14. Cooperated in mass X-ray survey in Greensboro.<sup>39</sup>
15. Employed special tuberculosis worker, Mrs. W. D. (Margaret) Diack.<sup>40</sup>
16. Employed Mrs. Franklin (Louise E.) Massey, to succeed Mrs. Diack, who resigned.<sup>41</sup>

### Still A 'Vital Point'

"The vital point is to get laymen interested." These words spoken by Dr. Charles A. Julian in 1909 remain true today 50 years later. The tuberculosis case rate, vivid index to the problem, remains high today despite sanatoriums and modern drugs.

In 1957 Guilford County's case rate per 100,000 was 32.6. In the same year North Carolina's case rate per 100,000 was 37.4 and in the United States during the same period the rate was 51.0.<sup>42</sup>

These figures are proof of Dr. Julian's statement in 1909 that this is not "a matter exclusively for the medical fraternity to attend to."