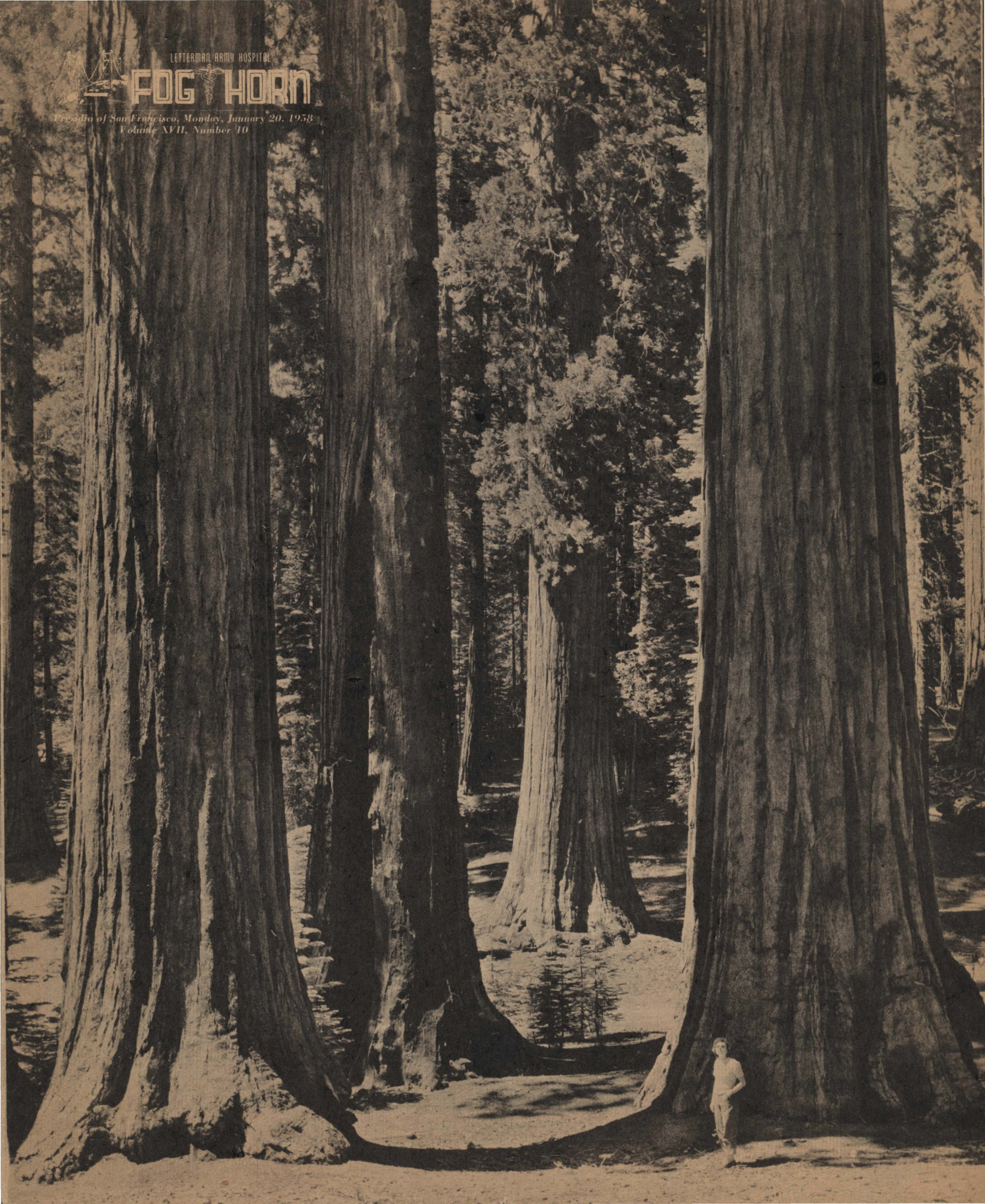


LETTERMAN ARMY HOSPITAL
FOG HORN

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"I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standards of my profession . . . With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work; and, devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care."

from the Florence Nightingale pledge

With the above quoted portion of the Florence Nightingale Pledge for Nurses, Letterman's commanding general summarized those qualities upon which selection was based for the first recipient of the Evangeline G. Bovard Award.

Evangeline G. Bovard was an Army nurse from January, 1912 until February, 1916, and from July, 1916 until August, 1917. She had an outstanding record of service in assignments which included both Letterman Army Hospital and the Philippine Islands.

She died at Letterman in 1955. The following April her husband, Col. Robert Skelton, MC, Retired, set up the Evangeline G. Bovard Award in memory of his wife by establishing an endowment trust fund of assets totalling approximately \$25,000. Earnings from this fund are to be presented annually "for the use and benefit of Army Nurses assigned to Letterman Army Hospital," as it was expressed by the colonel.

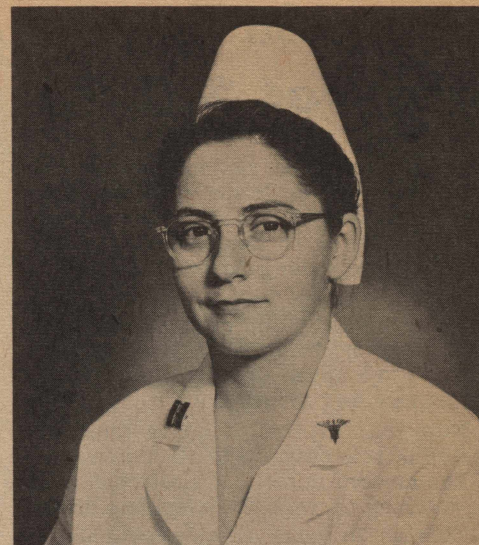
Most of Letterman's officer duty staff witnessed the presentation of the first award to Capt. Lenora B. Weirick by Brig. Gen. Paul S. Fancher, Letterman com-

manding general.

As the general pointed out in his quotation from the Florence Nightingale Pledge, standards for selection were high. According to stipulations made by Colonel Skelton, the ultimate decision was made by Letterman's commanding general, executive officer and chief nurse. However, prior to this, a committee of nurses, consisting of education coordinator and supervisors of Medical Nursing Section, Operating Room, Surgical Section and Neuropsychiatric Nursing Section, was given the job of selecting nominees.

"The initial committee entered into this tremendous task with the greatest consideration and appreciation of the difficulties involved," General Fancher stated before giving the nurses' pledge to illustrate qualities the committee sought in nominees. "Individual nursing assignments were correlated with the potential of opportunity to demonstrate nurse-patient relationship, skills of profession in its various aspects, ingenuity and creativeness in assignment, and the opportunity for formal or informal instruction."

Nominees were carefully considered by



Capt. Lenora B. Weirick, ANC

the board of three officers named by Colonel Skelton before Captain Weirick was chosen by secret ballot.

Capt. Lenora B. Weirick was selected to be first recipient of the Evangeline G. Bovard Award because of her outstanding and continued display of those qualities, as outlined by General Fancher, in her care of acutely ill patients, her invaluable contributions to improved care of paraplegics and her ability to instruct and train corpsmen that they might become highly proficient in care of neurosurgery and paraplegic patients.

During her tenure of duty at Letterman, Captain Weirick continually showed

The Evangeline G. Bovard Award



General Fancher - Captain Weirick - Colonel Skelton
The beginning of a tradition

outstanding abilities in general nursing care, and her keen observation and skillful care of acutely ill patients, both neurosurgical and others, added immeasurably to their more rapid recovery. Largely through her efforts and skill, post-injury and post-operative complications common to neurosurgical patients were reduced to a minimum.

Her ability to instruct corpsmen in difficult nursing problems of these patients greatly added to the high standards of special care required.

Captain Weirick not only spent much off-duty time in preparing Foster and Stryker frames for use, but she also held classes to instruct personnel in proper use of Foster frames, emphasizing safety precautions and proper manner of orienting patients to allay their fears.

In addition, she compiled a procedure book for care of neurosurgical patients which is now a guide and reference book for those working on the neurosurgical

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Bovard Award

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ward; and she initiated a routine for suctioning patients with tracheotomies which is less traumatic to tissues and less irritating to patients.

Captain Weirick originally entered the ANC in 1944, joining the 66th Field Hospital that November to spend several months on front lines in Germany. She saw subsequent duty at Mayo General Hospital, Gaylesburg, Ill., and on the Admiral Rodman transport out of Brooklyn Army Base to Bremerhaven.

She left Army service in June, 1947 to join the staff of Veterans Administration Hospital, Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, N.Y.

A year later the captain reentered the ANC to spend three months at Army-Navy General Hospital, Hot Springs, before joining the 161st Station Hospital at Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. In March, 1951 she joined the 8055th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) in Korea.

It was in Korea that she received her Bronze Star, the citation for which reads, in part, "Captain Weirick, a member of the . . . (MASH) . . . 8055th Army Unit, is cited for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy in Korea during the period 6 April 1951 to 22 April 1952. Serving as a General Nurse . . . her outstanding technical skill, compassionate regard for the welfare of her charges, and tireless devotion to duty earned her the deep respect and admiration of all those with whom she worked and contributed immeasurably to the success achieved by her hospital . . ."

After Korea, she was at Fort Campbell, Ky., before her Letterman assignment in July, 1954. Last September she began as a full-time student at University of San Francisco on the Army's Final Semester Plan after attending night school while at both Fort Campbell and Letterman. She is a graduate of St. Joseph Academy and Mercy Hospital School of Nursing of Des Moines.

When Captain Weirick finishes her USF courses this month for her A.B. in Nursing, she leaves for assignment in Germany.

At the presentation ceremony last week, Invocation was given by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) S. J. Baumgart; the general spoke, introducing Colonel Skelton and Captain Weirick, and Lt. Col. Louis E. Mudgett, executive officer, read the citation accompanying the award.

General Fancher then presented the citation, certificate and check to Captain Weirick. He read a personal letter from Maj. Gen. Silas B. Hays, Surgeon General, and presented that to the captain along with letters from Maj. Gen. James P. Cooney, Deputy Surgeon, and Col. Inez



RECEIVING A TRAY as out-going president of the Women's club is Mrs. Nelson Irely (ctr) from Mrs. Clarence Anderson, president-elect. At right is Mrs. Paul S. Fancher, honorary president of the club.

Ration Allowances Raised

Washington (AFPS)—About \$3 more a month will be coming to military personnel authorized to eat meals away from mess halls.

A Defense Department directive, effective Jan. 1, raises the commuted rations allowance from \$1 to \$1.10 a day.

The allowance, reviewed annually, is based on what it would cost to feed a man if he ate in the mess hall.

There is no change in the \$2.57 a day given to personnel where no military facilities are provided.

Haynes, Army Nurse Corps chief.

A plaque, which will carry names of all winners of the Evangeline G. Bovard Award, was presented into custody of Letterman's chief nurse, Lt. Col. Naomi Jensen.

Benediction was given by Chaplain (Major) Vincent E. Nelson to close the ceremonies.

And thus, the Evangeline G. Bovard Award made its first official appearance on its way to become a tradition reflecting the high standards of nursing care in the Army Nurse Corps and at Letterman Army Hospital.

Sergeant Retires

After 30 years, three months and nine days of service in the U.S. Army, M/Sgt. Steve Melinec has retired from military service to "loaf and rest awhile," and then go to work for a civilian concern.

Sergeant Melinec was supply NCO for Department of Neuro-psychiatry from March, 1954, until he joined the detachment of patients. This was his third tour of duty at Letterman.

During his many years of service he saw duty with the 2nd Infantry in Indiana, in Hawaii (1930) with the 27th Infantry, several Forts in Northern California, in Europe with the 28th Fighter Group and Far East with XVI Corps Headquarters.

Sergeant Melinec and his wife Nan will live in their home at 1147 Nimitz Drive, Colma. His retirement was effective last Wednesday.



it's Not S.O.P.

(Continued from Page 4)

general semantics course at S.F. State the other night.

Problem: If you have a huge glass jar with a very tiny opening, and if there is a goose in the jar, how do you get the goose out without breaking the jar?

Answer: Take him out the same way you put him in—with words!

Think about it. And if you figure it out, think of the many things we daily put into "existence" merely by words.

End general semantics lesson!

Texas Taxes

Washington (AFPS)—Servicemen who claim residency in Texas desiring to vote in 1958 elections must pay their poll tax by Jan. 31.

The state tax is \$1.50 and some counties levy an additional fee of 25 cents. A city tax also must be paid in certain areas.

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