Part IV: University Components and Activities --- Chapter 58: The Women's Board (pages 991-1018)

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The Women’s Board

MRS. PAUL A. BOWERS

“When society cannot afford to have what it cannot afford to be without, it is the occasion for intelligent giving.”

—ALAN GREGG (1890–1957)

In 1889 Dr. Jacob Mendes DaCosta, Chairman of Theory and Practice of Medicine, recommended to the Board of Trustees an organization of women to aid the College and Hospital. They studied the idea and on April 1, 1890, gave approval. Rules and regulations were drawn up under the aegis of the Trustees. The Maternity Department was the first to benefit when a Maternity Committee was established in 1892. In 1894 a Board of Lady Managers furnished a house at 224 South Seventh Street, on Washington Square, for maternity patients (Figure 58-I). They paid an annual rent of $1,000 plus the costs for fuel, domestic services, and part of the nurses’ salaries. The Trustees covered expenses for fuel, light, medical needs, and some nurses’ salaries. The cost of food for each patient averaged slightly more than $7 per month, and daily total costs per patient were figured at 26¢. There were no fixed time limits for the stay of a patient. Receipts came from personal contributions, board paid by some patients, Charity Ball allocation, and functions held for financial aid. There were contributions also of furniture, infant clothing, and food. The first year 74 patients were cared for by two nurses, and the following year recorded 172 births with 19 infant deaths. It must be recalled that in those days very few deliveries were performed outside the home, and most were by midwives. The purpose of the Jefferson maternity facility was not only for care but for instruction of medical students.

Until 1897 the Board of Lady Managers was under the leadership of Mrs. E.D. Gillespie, who was followed by Mrs. E.P. Davis. Mrs. E.E. Montgomery was Secretary and Mrs. Edward Weil the Treasurer. A group of 17 members met weekly in the Maternity Home. The ninth annual report requested donors to support the work as follows:

- $10 to care for a weak infant for one month
- $15 to pay a large part of the expenses of a poor woman for her confinement
- $300 to endow a bed for one year
- $1,500 to endow a bed in perpetuity

Receipts and expenses for the year averaged between $3,000 and $4,000. An appeal to the...
Trustees to relieve the women of the $1,000 annual rent was approved.

In 1894 the Board of Lady Managers became involved in the Hospital, but details of their aid are lacking. In 1896 yet another group of ladies formed a committee to enhance the recreational facilities and Library of the College. They equipped a Reading Room, financed a Medical Library in the old College at Tenth and Moravian, and continued this function when the next Medical College Building was opened in 1898 at Tenth and Walnut.

Reorganization occurred in 1908 when the Board of Trustees dissolved the committees of the Board of Lady Managers and on January 9, 1909, created a new group called the Women's Auxiliary. Sub-Dean Ross V. Patterson felt at this time that the energies of the ladies would be better served in the Hospital, and the College committee was eliminated. By 1912 four major committees were active. A Hospital Committee of 30 members strove to maintain the attractiveness as well as usefulness of all areas related to care of the sick; the Maternity Committee of 24 members proposed to work for the needs of the Department; a 12-member Nurses Committee was committed to oversee the comfort and well-being of the nurses; and an Entertainment Committee, 51 strong, engaged in fund-raising and cultural events. Mrs. John Gibbon, Sr., was Treasurer of this fourth committee.

The various committees were composed of women of social standing closely related to members of the faculty or Board of Trustees. Ladies of this era who engaged in such activity were described as “social housekeepers,” giving freely of time and means for their charitable services. The present-day Women's Board is the lineal successor to this Auxiliary, the records of which date from 1912. In this year the first rules of operation were printed, and a copy of the bylaws of 1925 exists.

In the surgical, medical, and “nervous” wards, 4,147 patients were treated in 1911. Of these patients 83% were free cases. Mrs. Charles M. Lea, Chairman of the Hospital Committee, noting the large census and great needs in these wards, set up a subcommittee of Public Wards. The Hospital Committee met from October through April, controlled the purchasing, and visited the hospital areas, including the wards, weekly.

In 1912 a Social Service Committee was organized through a fund provided by Ann Hinchman to aid the needy in the hospital.

By 1916 the Trustees advised that the Auxiliary could establish its own rules of organization, and in May authorized that subcommittees be abolished in favor of independent ones. In that year, the children's ward was at capacity with 100 patients—eleven had no beds and slept wherever they could be tucked in. On the international scene, that same year, Mrs. Paul Compton of the Maternity Committee lost her life when the Germans sank the Lusitania.

In May, 1917, the Auxiliary formed an independent committee for the preparation of surgical supplies and set up a room where 31 members could work one day a week. They were assessed $540 to buy materials for start up under the supervision of a nurse. In addition, because of the War, this committee labored to supply a Base

Fig. 38-1. The Maternity facility at 224 West Washington Square, established in 1894 for patient care and student instruction.
Hospital unit with dressings, bandages, and comfort bags and requested knitters to make 158 sweaters for the drivers of Jefferson Base Unit No. 38. Dr. John Gibbon, Sr., who was operating 16 hours a day, made an urgent request for dressings. The major sources of funding were the Charity Ball, Horse Show, and a new cooperative shop in the City.

The 1920s

Bessie (Mrs. J. Dobson) Altemus (Figure 58-2) became President of what now was called the “Women’s Board” in 1921, and served in this capacity for 21 years. Records do not mention why the unofficial change in name. The annual receipts for the Board in 1922 totaled $2,282, needed for the three wards at 236–238 Pine Street. Mrs. Simon Gratza chaired the Children’s Ward group, Mrs. Edward P. Davis the Maternity, Mrs. Alba B. Johnson the Social Services and Mrs. Charles Hebald the Nurses Home.

In March, 1923, the Board was notified by the Trustees through Dr. Henry K. Mohler that the establishment of Memorial Rooms was approved. They were not to be designated as such, but for a donation of $275 a brass plate would be placed on the door to read “Furnished by—”

In 1924, the Thompson Annex opened. Mrs. Simon Gratza as Chairman of the Children’s Ward Committee arranged with Ellis Gimbel to provide a circus party for the children. Mrs. Brooke Anspach became Chairman of the Public Wards Committee and served until 1940. During 1924 a new Junior Committee for the Nurses’ Home was formed by Mrs. Hill. Armason Harrison, a member of this committee, arranged dances and bridge parties to raise funds. Mrs. Thomas McCrae was appointed to encourage wives of new members of the College’s faculty to join the Board. Mrs. Joseph Wear became Chairman of the Maternity Committee. In May, 1925, the name “Women’s Board” was officially adopted.

The 1930s

Mrs. Percival Foerderer, destined to become an outstanding President in 1947, was elected to membership in 1930. Mrs. John Martin as chairman of the Maternity Committee aided the establishment of a new Antenatal Clinic, bringing an influx of 121 new patients, the largest since the founding of the Department. The outpatient maternity department moved to 2545 Wharton Street, where four senior medical students boarded and were on call to help with deliveries in patients’ homes.

The Curtis Clinic opened in 1931, and in May, 1932, a new committee was formed to foster its interests. In December, 1932, an Alcove Food Facility was opened in the Thompson Annex, with proceeds to be allocated for work of the Social

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FIG. 58-2. Bessie (Mrs. J. Dobson) Altemus; President (1921–1942).
Services Committee. Staff physicians of that era will recall the camaraderie that developed in the Alcove as well as the exchange of professional information and advice.

The Philadelphia Electric Company, a longtime benefactor of the Children's Ward, provided suitable clothing for every needy child leaving the hospital. Not to be outdone, the Sewing Committee of the Women's Board on one occasion made 29 baby dresses before nightfall when an emergency rose.

In 1933, with repeal of Prohibition, the Charity Ball was an outstanding social and financial success. The Meyer Davis band played at greatly reduced cost. That year the Christmas baskets for the Pine Street Chest Hospital's needy patients and families were readied at a cost of $2.75 each. They contained a ten-pound ham, soup beans, two loaves of bread, a can of syrup, cocoa, evaporated milk, cornmeal, Mother's oats, tomatoes, onions, and macaroni.

The year 1934 (during the Great Depression) was especially poor from a financial standpoint, with only $342 received as allocation from the Cooperative Shop at 1821 Chestnut Street. Mrs. Robert Hooper on hearing this report promptly offered her home for a donation card party that raised $775.

The meetings of the Board were moved to the Roof Garden of the Thompson Annex in 1935. Upon request, a large supply of rubber gloves was purchased for the operating rooms. Operating room tables were also needed for the fourteenth floor, and the Board bought one for $79.50.

Under the Children's Ward Chairmanship of Mrs. Neff Colfelt in 1937 the Board purchased new cribs. The children of Drs. Henry K. Mohler and Elmer H. Funk saved their money to provide a party for the Children's Ward. The Public Wards Committee purchased dozens of bathrobes for the patients for $133, while the Maternity Committee bought a $400 resuscitation machine. Snellenburg's Store decorated and furnished a sitting-room for patients in a former delivery room on the fifth floor of the Tenth and Sansom Streets Hospital as a memorial to Adeline Potter Wear, who died in 1925. The home furnishings of Dean Ross V. Patterson, who died in 1938, were installed in the Nurses' Home at 1012 Spruce Street. The Emergency Aid Bazaar moved from the Penn Athletic club to the Bellevue Stratford Hotel, and the Women's Board became a participant.

The Public Wards Committee in 1938 enlarged its active membership to 35 in order to serve increased needs, especially of the surgical wards. Mrs. Percival Foerderer and E.E. Montgomery visited the "nervous" wards regularly and provided games for patients. The Maternity Committee applied to the National Youth Administration for an assistant at the Wharton Street Maternity Dispensary. The workers in this Administration received 50¢ an hour. In this year the Gray Ladies functioned as an auxiliary to the School of Nursing (Figure 58-3). They made dressings and undertook many routine tasks that released the trained nurses for the vital care of the sick.

The Maternity Committee in 1939 sponsored a luncheon at the Ritz Carlton Hotel to finance the organization of a Mother's Club to educate mothers in the care of their babies. The Blum Store gave 40 articles of clothing to "chance off," which realized $1,400. The Cooperative Shop's profit for Jefferson for the first six months was $169. The chairman of each committee of the Women's Board was made responsible to furnish workers and donations on a monthly basis. As a memorial to Dr. Harvey Righter, a Jefferson graduate of 1896 who died in 1934, the Women's Board established the custom of providing a rose to each nurse at graduation. Dr. Righter, who had been a lecturer to the nurses in bandaging, began presenting to each member of the Class of 1928 a red rose at Commencement. This eventually led to the formation of the traditional "Rose Arch" at graduation, which continued until the three-year Diploma Program was phased out in June, 1982.

The 1940s

New efforts in recruitment of members, now at 117, was instituted in 1940. There was anticipation of World War II in which Jefferson's Gray Ladies, organized by Mrs. Willard M. Rice III (Figure 58-4) and the largest such unit in the United States, was producing 200,000 dressings a year. The Pine Street Chest Hospital was provided with 24 bedside tables at a cost of $400.
Theater parties at Alden Park Manor began during the especially active year of 1941, and the first party netted $600. Jefferson participated in a Head-Dress Ball with proceeds of $1,000. Mrs. Willard Rice, Chairman of the Public Wards Committee, saw the urgent need for installation of running water in the wards. When the Trustees provided $800 for this plumbing, it released funds for the Wards group to purchase new medicine cabinets. Bessie Altemus, a political activist, was successful at Harrisburg in obtaining an allocation of $60,000 per year in State funds for the care of poor ward patients. Mrs. H. Alarik Myrin of the Curtis Clinic Committee was requested by Dr. Hayward R. Hamrick to supply 25 volunteer clerical workers. In March of the same year the hospital was making blackout preparations by a special group composed of Gray Ladies, Navy League Volunteers, and Canteen Workers. In April the Philadelphia Food Show was established with Jefferson as one of 23 hospital beneficiaries—the Women’s Board sold 2,000 tickets. The Alcove Shop became self-sustaining. Plays at Alden Park Manor netted $500. The Social Service had expanded to seven subcommittees. The Junior Committee was conducting informal dances for student nurses at almost monthly intervals. The children’s ward was painted at a cost of $368. Two sitting rooms in Thompson Annex were furnished in memory of Dr. P. Brooke Bland, who died in 1940. Board receipts for 1941 were $7,407, and expenditures $4,789.

No less active was 1942. Mrs. J. Howard Pew (Figure 58-5) became President and Mrs. Percival Foerdner organized the first Finance Committee. A plaque was placed in the hospital in recognition of 21 years of fruitful service by Bessie Altemus, who was also awarded the title of Honorary Chairman of the Board. Mrs. P. Brooke Bland was Chairman of the first Phantom Valentine project, which netted $1,834 and was continued for many years. She was also active in revising the bylaws,

Fig. 58-1: The Gray Ladies, an auxiliary to the School of Nursing.
which now provided for active, subscribing, contributing, and honorary membership categories. Nominations from the floor were also to be recognized. Meetings increased to eight a year from the previous four. A new Executive Committee was constituted from elected officers, directors, and chairmen of the committees. There was a request from the hospital for the first time for an annual report of the Women’s Board. The Maternity Committee purchased oxygen masks and gauges and provided milk for pregnant women. The Social Service volunteers made 200 sewing kits, which were requested by Dr. Baldwin Keyes for the doctors and nurses of the organizing. Jefferson Base Unit No. 38. Janet Walker, the hospital dietitian, asked for funds to raise the salaries of her kitchen workers by $10 per month. Jefferson Hospital was paying $40 to $50 a month, whereas nearby stores paid $15 to $18 per week. Board volunteers gave their services in the kitchens. Mrs. Robert Liversidge replaced Mrs. Colfelt as Chairman of the Children’s Ward. In April a committee toured the hospital to assess wartime preparedness in emergency situations. Windows had been painted black, and extra beds lined the halls and sitting rooms. Any shortage of nurses and household equipment was carefully noted. Mrs. Potter Wear gave the Social Service group a car for motor messages, and the Board provided gasoline and repairs. On May 15 the Jefferson Unit left for camp with 34 doctors and 34 nurses. Maternity averaged 600 patients monthly and Wharton St. Dispensary had 4,397 cases from June to September. The Curtis Clinic Committee provided shower and plumbing facilities for 17 student nurses who would reside there. The Gray Ladies gave 30,000 volunteer hours in 1942, an average of 2,500 hours a month, to maintain essential services in the hospital.

In the war effort, by early 1943 a cadet nurses corps was active in hospitals, with 26 student
cadets at Jefferson. The tuition was paid by the
government, but the cost to maintain each student
was $254. The Women's Board financed one
student nurse. In the fall of 1943 the cadet nurses
corps was discontinued.

By February of 1944, 117 cadets resided at Tenth
and Walnut Streets. A spinet piano was purchased
for the wards at a cost of $231. The wards needed
improvement in terms of lighting, ventilation, and
floor covering. Ice water was being carried to
inpatients and to clinics on litters. The House
Committee supplied two volunteers daily to help
sort linen, tidy the rooms, keep the drug
department neat, and give sundry aid where
needed. The Staff Nurses appealed to the
Women's Board for support in their request for
eight hours of duty instead of the existing 12, but
this involvement was declined.

In 1944 the 109-member Women's Board still
met in the Thompson Roof Garden. Receipts
totalled $19,804 and expenditures $12,158. At year's
end, six members of the Bronchoscopic
Committee raised $4,000 in advertisements for the
Charity Ball, the largest sum to that time. The
Maternity Committee spent $2,250 for
improvements in their division. The Public Wards
Committee bought 100 bed lamps and 24 bedside
tables. The Nurses' Home received a full tea
service, and monthly teas for students began.

Mrs. Percival Foerderer (Figure 8-6) became
President of the Board in 1947. She was
considered a financial wizard, an innovative leader,
and a superb organizer. She was responsible for
first introducing a voice for the Women's Board
on the Board of Trustees for establishment of the
Joint Hospital Conference to further a closer
working relationship. She also proposed that wives
of the Trustees become members of the Executive
Committee with full privileges, and that each
committee should have a cochairman. The Finance
Committee recommended that 3% of the total
receipts in a year from any source be delegated to
the Women Board's general fund, which at that
time had a balance of $43.

For fund raising in 1948, a bridge party was
held in McClellan Hall and a May tea and fashion
show at the private residence of Mr. and Mrs.
James Butt near Valley Forge. The Nurses' Home
Committee established a memorial Altemus prize
of $25 to be awarded annually at the graduation of
the School of Nursing. The Barton Memorial
Committee report of Mrs. J. Parsons Schaeffer
indicated that in late 1946 the old Broad Street
Hospital had been acquired and renovated, with
Dr. Burgess Gordon as Medical Director. This
supplanted the former 236–238 Pine Street
Building for Diseases of the Chest. The
Committee completely furnished the reception
room with an oriental rug, love seat, chairs, lamps,
mirror, and two torchères for the lobby. Mrs.
Edward L. Bauer appeared on radio station WIBG
to talk about Jefferson. Receipts for 1948 totaled
$15,726 and expenditures $7,720.

In 1949 the Women's Board joined a new state
organization, the Pennsylvania Association of
Hospital Auxiliaries under the aegis of the
Pennsylvania Hospital Association. Mrs. J.
Howard Pew was delegated to attend the first
meeting of the Philadelphia region of this
association. Mrs. Brandon Barringer was
appointed Chairman for the Charity Ball, her
members to consist of the Chairmen of all the

Fig. 8-6. Mrs. Percival Foerderer; President (1947–1952)
Board Committees. It was recommended also that the Board sponsor one large annual party for which all the committees would work. Receipts for the year were $15,615, and expenditures $8,391.

The 1950s

The Women's Board in 1950 had reached a membership of 261 plus seven honorary members, with Mrs. Percival Foerderer reelected as President. The Nursing School received a certificate of accreditation, which was displayed in the alcove. The Director of Nursing, Katherine Childs, requested the Board to grant scholarships in amounts of $100 to aid students through the first year of training because of economic distress in the upstate mining area from which so many promising applicants came. The Nurses' Home Committee responded with an amount of $800. The Maternity Department, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Thaddeus L. Montgomery, had 38 private and 38 ward beds. Sixteen hundred babies were delivered, of which 170 were premature. The Maternity Committee in this year started a project to photograph the newborns in addition to the footprint and the mother's thumbprint. The Public Wards Committee, grown to 27 members, was serving 250 patients on three floors. It purchased 200 bedside tables and desks for $1,196.

In January, 1951, a resolution of sympathy was sent to the family on the death of Mrs. J. Chalmers DaCosta, a founding member of the Board. On the death of Mrs. J. Dobson Altemus a plaque in her memory was installed on the ninth floor of the Thompson Annex. The Private Rooms Committee, responsible for six floors in the Thompson Annex as well as 42 scattered throughout other areas, arranged for their renovation. The Curtis Clinic Committee purchased parallel bars and a Strycher frame bed for the Physiotherapy Department at a cost of $300. Receipts for the year were $12,863, and expenditures $6,535.

Mrs. Thomas B.K. Ringe (Figure 58-7), who had been secretary of the Board for the previous ten years, became President in 1952. She was the daughter of Dr. J. Coles Brick, Professor of Proctology and a relative of the legendary Dr. J. Chalmers DaCosta. During this year the Joint Hospital Conference was operational, with the President of the Women's Board as a member.

Plans for a new hospital pavilion (Foerderer) surfaced in March, and Mrs. Joseph Eastwick was appointed Chairman of the New Building Committee. Vincent Kling, the architect, and four ladies of the Board visited hospital lobbies and furniture houses in New York for ideas in planning.

Mrs. Willard Rice, Chairman of the Public Wards Committee for 15 years, retired in 1953 as an honorary member. Ward visiting on a twice-weekly basis, instituted by her five years previously, was continued by the committee, which now numbered 35 active members. While operating the cart services in the hospital, volunteers wore the cherry red uniforms as mandated by the Association of Hospital Auxiliaries. The Junior Committee, chaired by Armason Harrison, functioned under the Nurses' Home Committee in the Cooperative Shop. It also established an endowment of $10,000 for the School of Nursing. This year marked the entry of Jefferson as a participant in the Christmas Bazaar.

sponsored by the Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania. The Maternity Committee operated the Board's Booth and netted $1,210. From the sale of Jefferson glasses the Barton Committee gave $100 to the Nurses Alumni Fund to provide required nursing care to needy Alumni physicians. The Cooperative Shop had its best year ever, netting $38,210, with Jefferson receiving $2,302. Receipts for the year totaled $11,427, and expenditures $4,539. Mrs. Thomas James, director of the Gray Ladies for five and one half years, retired and was replaced by Virginia Metzger.

A new ruling in regard to the Charity Ball proceeds, whereby the chief beneficiary in a given year was to get one-half of the total amount (minus costs) and the remaining committees were to receive pro rata amounts, was established in 1954. Mrs. P. Brooke Bland was appointed chairman of the New Projects Committee. Annual receipts were $14,237, and expenditures $6,889. The Foerderer Pavilion, at a cost of seven and one-half million dollars, formally opened on November 8, 1954, and contained a Trustee Board Room on the fourteenth floor available to the Women's Board.

Mrs. Norman P. Russell, wife of a Trustee, was elected President in 1955. The House Committee aided in planning an ecumenical Meditation Room in the new Foerderer Pavilion. Mrs. Calvin Rankin, the new Chairman of the Public Wards Committee, reported that the wards needed remodeling at a projected cost of $500,000, but that an alternative of a new building for ward patients loomed in the future. Mrs. Ruhlman Rebmann of the Social Service Committee voiced the growing need for a hospital volunteer director to coordinate the activities of the various workers, but the question of salary stymied the idea. Proceeds of $10,880 from the Charity Ball were allocated to 15 different committees. These funds were administered by Hospital Director Dr. Hayward Hamrick for the various expenditures of the committees. The Women's Board paid $100 annually to the American Hospital Association. From the Public Wards Committee there were 34 workers on the cart services, plus additional aid in other hospital services of workers from the Barton Committee, and 48 from the Social Service Committee. The Barton Committee purchased an iron lung (Figure 58-8) for $1,789, a ventilator for anesthesia for $117, and a television. Mrs. Norman Reeves became chairman of the House Committee. A new volunteer group entertained in the Children's Ward and helped to feed the children six days a week. The Curtis Clinic Committee received a grant of $10,000 from the Pew Memorial Foundation for the Emergency Room. Annual receipts were $16,949, with expenditures of $6,714.

The beginning of 1956 was saddened by the death of Mrs. James T. Haviland, a longtime devoted member of the Board. The School of Nursing Endowment Fund was given $500 as a memorial. This fund later became the Marjorie B. Haviland Fund and rapidly increased to $19,500. Three hundred copies of newly established bylaws were printed. The new Activities Committee sponsored a yearly dinner dance known as the "Salute to Spring." The first event netted $400. Miss Marian Hays was appointed Director of the Gray Ladies. The Barton Committee built and equipped a new kitchen. In connection with the construction of a new Nurses' Residence at Eleventh and Walnut Streets, the Pew, Ford, and Longwood Foundations had given $800,000. The Pew Foundation pledged an additional $200,000 if Jefferson could match this by March 1. As Building Fund chairman, Mrs. Paul Havens exceeded her $50,000 allocation by raising $76,000. In December the Meditation Room was dedicated with flowers from the Women's Board, a flag donated by the Gray Ladies, and a Bible from Mrs. Percival Foerderer. Annual receipts were $14,642, and expenditures $8,218.

In 1957 Dr. Ellsworth Browneller became the Medical Director, succeeding Dr. Hayward Hamrick, who had died the previous year. Mrs. H. Alarik Myrin (Figure 58-9), the newly elected President, obtained an Oldsmobile for $3,000, which netted a profit of $11,414 on chances. This was allocated to the new Martin Nurses' Residence. The Alcove Shop added $3,000 of accumulated funds for the same purpose. The Public Wards Committee instituted sundry improvements at a cost of $2,718. The Children's Ward Committee staged a baseball party at Connie Mack Stadium, which netted $650. The Maternity Committee gave $1,500 for air-conditioning in the nurseries. The Christmas Booth profits of $2,852 were given to the Obstetrics Department for...
cancer research. Annual receipts were $14,692, and expenditures $8,218.

Mrs. A. Balfour Brehman was the Board's nominee and winner of the 1958 Gimbel Award for her work with the blind. Because of the increasing importance of the Board's meetings, it was arranged for the minutes to be kept in the vaults of the Liberty Real Estate Bank and Trust Company. Agatha Rapp was appointed to the position of Volunteer Director at a salary of $3,600, one-half of which was paid by the Women's Board and the other half by the administration. Annual receipts were $17,930, and expenditures $5,590.

Mr. William Bodine became President of the College and Hospital in 1959. Dr. Ellsworth Browneller, the Medical Director, at his first meeting with the Women's Board, eulogized the members "who project the feminine genius for creating homelike atmosphere which in its way is as important as medical science in the hospital."

The Public Wards Committee (Figure 58-10) initiated theater parties at Playhouse in the Park, and the first one netted $1,700. These ventures, successful for almost a decade, were eventually abandoned because of waning enthusiasm for the productions. The Maternity Committee realized $3,336 from the Christmas Booth of the Emergency Aid Bazaar and donated it for cancer research in the Department. The Board purchased a hypothermia unit for the operating room for $1,600, 33 wheelchairs for $3,000, and contributed...
$4,008 for the Nurses' Residence. Mrs. Brandon Barringer was appointed permanent chairman of the Charity Ball. A silver tea service was purchased by the Board for use of student nurses' teas. Nineteen members of the Barton Committee made 3,000 dressings for the Barton Memorial Hospital in one day. The operation of the Alcove Shop was returned to the Social Service Committee, with Mrs. Elmer Funk as manager. Annual receipts were $28,215, and expenditures $20,650. At the end of the decade of the 1950s the Board had 17 Committees. Recruitment of volunteers was becoming more difficult because of the population shift to the suburbs and increased problems in parking.

The 1960s

Major hospital policy changes in the decade of the 1960s were mirrored in dramatic new developments in the activities of the Women's Board. These years witnessed a decline in
individual volunteerism as well as the scope of the endeavors. The advent of Medicare in late 1965 brought new regulatory agencies and use of paramedical health personnel. Life-styles of the women were changing: there was more affluence, but a disappearance of household maids. More of the women were gainfully employed and had less time for cultural and philanthropic activities.

As 1960 began, the Board endorsed holding one large fund-raising event of the year in addition to the ongoing efforts of its 17 committees. In January, President Bodine made a formal presentation of Jefferson’s status, emphasizing the precarious state of the hospital’s finances and the expansion plans for the decade. He pointed out that in the opinion of Warren Brock, legal counsel for the institution, funds earned by the Board in the name of Jefferson must be spent. The Board could no longer sequester funds in various accounts as had been done in the past, a ruling confirmed by the Joint Hospital Conference. It was estimated that the Board’s funds totaled about $90,000, for which the suggested use would be to renovate the hospital rooms. The Children’s Committee, which did not engage in fund raising, resolved to hold their assets of $7,000 to accumulate to $30,000 for matching with a similar amount to renovate the eighth-floor children’s ward. The increasing complexity of hospital care accounted for the lengthy lists of needs submitted by the administration, from which each committee could choose its contributions. In October, the Board, with encouragement from President Bodine, engaged in plans to establish its own Thrift Shop in Ardmore. A letter was sent to the Cooperative Shop, indicating Jefferson’s withdrawal from further participation.

The Barton Committee announced that the Barton Division for Diseases of the Chest would move from its Broad Street location to the Main Hospital in the spring of 1961. The Activities Committee was asked to initiate programs of entertainment for Interns and Residents. In compliance they severed their association with the Nurses Home Committee.

The annual May meeting was held for the first time in the Nurses’ Home, which had changed its name to the James R. Martin Nurses’ Residence. Mrs. Robert Liversidge (Figure 58-II) was installed as President, which under the existing rules would be for a term of two years. Mrs. H. Alarik Myrin was made an Honorary President and was awarded a citation by President Bodine (Figure 58-12). Mrs. Calvin Rankin reported the organization of a governing board for the new Thrift Shop, with the hiring of Thelma Reed as Manager at a weekly salary of $50. The Social Service Committee paid the salary of $5,400 for the Director of Social Services for the coming fiscal year, by which time the Gray Lady unit would be deactivated. The Rooms’ Committee, which needed $13,100 for their work, was granted $2,000 from the Board and allotted to receive all proceeds from the year’s Phantom Valentine party.

At a December meeting President Bodine explained once more through the legal advice of Warren Brock that the Board’s financial activities were contrary to federal law. All solicited funds belonged to the Jefferson Corporation, and the Controller submitted a form indicating the proper division and distribution of the Board’s assets, receipt of 94 shares of Sun Oil stock, income of $42,000, and expenditures of $38,122.

The year 1961 signaled the opening on January 30 of the Jefferson Hospital’s Thrift Shop (Figure 58-13). Mrs. Calvin Rankin was cited by President Bodine for her accomplishments in the project.
She had rented a building in Ardmore for $185 a month and estimated that running expenses would average $450 a month. In its first month of operation the proceeds were $1,152. Each customer was given a bright new penny to symbolize the name of "The Pennywise Thrift Shop." A second large project, as suggested by President Bodine, was an Old Market Fair to be held in Society Hill on Head House Square. It was hoped that this unified Board event would raise $25,000 annually.

At this period the administration alerted the Board concerning the growing hospital deficits, with the possible necessity of eliminating free care as well as closing the School of Nursing. A petition was sent to the Pennsylvania legislature asking full reimbursement for indigent care.

The term of Presidency was extended from two years to three, following which there would be no further eligibility for this office.

The various committees purchased labor beds, recovery stretchers, electric beds, intermittent positive pressure breathing machines, water coolers, laundry carts, stacking chairs, and rugs. A seamstress made draperies for patient rooms at $2 per pair. Twelve private rooms on the ninth, eleventh, and twelfth floors of Thompson Annex, and Star floor of the Foerderer Pavilion were redecorated. The library on the fifteenth floor of the Foerderer Pavilion and the Library on the fourteenth floor of the Thompson Annex, where the Women's Board met, were also redecorated. The sum of $3,000 was contributed for student nurses' loans and scholarships.

Income for this year was lower because there were no more funds from the Cooperative Shop and ten committees had loaned $1,000 each to begin the intensive care unit, in which the total cost of $30,000 was born by the Board.

At the annual meeting in May, 1962, plans for the Thompson Annex expansion, at a cost of $850,000, were outlined. More significantly, a fund-raising campaign for $40 million was detailed, and Mrs. Michael Foley was appointed Chairman for the Board to raise a set quota of $225,000 for the Building Fund.

Early in the year Dr. Ellsworth Brownell resigned as Medical Director to go to Geisinger Memorial Hospital. The first President of the Faculty Wives Club, Mrs. William Sodeman, was made a member of the Executive Committee, with the agreement that succeeding presidents would be represented on the Women's Board.

The first luncheon for Pennywise Shop volunteers was held in May at the Philadelphia Country Club, where it was announced that the first year's profits from the Shop were $6,168.

Need for increased space was evident, and Mrs. Myrn was to search for larger quarters. The Alcove Shop of the hospital netted $10,103.

Anesthesia equipment was 15 years old and required replacement; a new resuscitation machine for the intensive care unit, a gas machine, and a ventilator for pediatric surgery were procured. The Public Wards Committee accepted the fourteenth floor Thompson psychiatric unit as its...
responsibility and changed the committee name to "Martha Jefferson."

In 1963 the membership of the Board totaled 241. Mrs. Gilbert Fry (Figure 58-14) was installed as the new President. Maurice P. Coffee, Jr., became the new Medical Director of the Hospital. The Joint Hospital Conference appointed Mabel Prevost as liaison with the Women's Board for the building fund-raising campaign. The School of Nursing was accredited for six more years.

The various committees contributed their usual share of philanthropic activity, but the big event was the Board's success in the fund-raising campaign. Mrs. Robert Liversidge announced that a total of $266,831 was subscribed to the building fund by 196 members, a participation of 80%. A luncheon was held in honor of the leadership of Mrs. Michael Foley, at which President Bodine bestowed upon her the Jefferson Service Award. In surpassing its quota the Board's final total was $280,000.

The November Emergency Aid Christmas Bazaar was postponed in respect for the funeral of the assassinated President John F. Kennedy. The year 1964 began on an additional sad note with the death of Mrs. J. Howard Pew, an untiring dedicated worker for Jefferson. In January the Board gave Natalie Hubschman a citation for her work on the Charity Ball program, which netted an all-time high of $18,391 (Figure 58-15).

The Medical Director, Maurice Coffee, alerted the Board to the severe shortage of nurses. The salary of a nurse was $340 a month. Special efforts were made to recruit nurses from the Scranton area, where there apparently was a surplus, and Mrs. Daniel Rhoads made a visit to the Philippines where she successfully recruited for Jefferson.

President Bodine requested that the fiscal year be set to end June 30 in conformity with hospital policy.

Plans for an Old Market Fair for the following year included loans of $200 from each committee for supplies and booths. Hospital equipment was purchased, some rooms renovated, and closed-circuit television provided.

In January, 1965, the Rooms and House Committees merged, and the Children's Committee ran the Emergency Aid booth. On the ensuing March 30, Mrs. Herbert Luscombe and Mrs. Paul Bowers instituted Doctor's Day at Jefferson. Mrs. Baldwin Keyes in the previous year had asked the Board to observe this national event, established in 1958 by the U.S. Congress, by presenting carnations to the physicians. The Board purchased 300 at 12¢ each, and a committee...
distributed them at the hospital entrances. On May 1, the first Old Market Fair was held in Society Hill on a permit granted by the City. The first Chairman was Mrs. Michael Foley. Some of the workers for the booths wore colonial costumes (Figure 8-16). The event grossed $11,036, with a net profit of $7,632, and additional donations brought the final net to $10,689. These funds were allocated to upgrade the five nurseries of the Maternity Department as mandated by the City Health Department.

The Pennywise Shop profits were growing steadily and grossed $27,144 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966. Mrs. Myrin found a property at 57 E. Lancaster Avenue in Ardmore, to which the Shop moved when the doors closed in June. This property, at a cost of $22,000, was to be paid for from savings and a mortgage of $14,000 personally assumed by Mrs. Myrin at 4%. It was to be dissolved at $5,000 annually.

At the November meeting Mrs. Foerderer announced she had been advised by the Administration that there was no further need for the Hospital Committee and that Board members would no longer inspect hospital areas without permission. A letter expressing the Board’s extreme dissatisfaction with this new policy was sent to Mr. Bodine. In compliance, however, a balance of $2,500 in the now-defunct Hospital Committee plus a gift of $5,000 from the Curtis Clinic Committee was paid to the decorator for the Foerderer Pavilion Star floor renovation.

The first significant event of 1966 was a meeting in February of Mrs. Liversidge with William Bodine and Maurice Coffee regarding inspections in the hospital with respect to maintenance, for which the Board had shown such interest and allocated so much money. A compromise was reached in that instead of the former Hospital Committee each of the various committees would send two members to visit each month. Mr. Bodine announced that he was resigning as President.

In March, three members of the Board, Lynn Dowling, Hattie Williams, and Mrs. Eloise Bowers appeared on television to advertise the approaching Old Market Fair. Twenty-five Board members were in the audience for the quiz show “Dolls and Dollars” (Figure 8-17). The affair netted $6,338, which once again was allocated to upgrading of the nurseries.

Mrs. Robert Wise became Chairman of the Pennywise Shop, and Mrs. Jane Trent was hired as Manager.

At the annual May meeting William Bodine outlined plans for the New Jefferson Hall, later to be called Jefferson Alumni Hall, to open in the summer of 1967 (Figure 8-18). James Large, Trustee, detailed the great strides made by Bodine during the seven years he was in office. He also spoke of the major goals for the upcoming eight years leading to the Sesquicentennial of the Medical College in 1974. They included construction of an Emergency Department, to cost in excess of $1 million, leading from the thruway between College and Thompson Annex into the area occupied by the amphitheater. A silver bowl as a retirement gift from the Board was presented to Mr. Bodine. Dr. Peter Herbur was to become the new President for Jefferson.

In 1967 Maurice Coffee resigned, and Dr. Francis J. Sweeney, Jr., became the Medical Director of the Hospital. This period marked the

Fig 8-16 Mrs. Michael Foley and Mrs. Samuel M V H Hamilton The Old Market Fair, 1966.
advent of Medicare and the end of ward care for patients. The fourth and sixth floors of the old Main Hospital had been condemned by state inspectors and the highest priority was given to their renovation, which would be the first in those areas for more than 60 years. Mrs. Paul Bowers and members of the Martha Jefferson Committee conducted a thorough inspection of the ward floors, to which the Administration responded by sanctioning long-overdue improvements in all areas related to patient care. Renovation costs were set at $94,000 plus more than $40,000 for decorating. The Martha Jefferson Committee pledged $10,000 to the project and Mrs. Drew Betz donated an additional $10,000. The Board voted to undertake refurbishing of the sixth floor at a cost not to exceed $40,000. A new 55-bed unit was developed for which the patient day rate was $28.

Mrs. Paul Bowers became the Jefferson representative to the Pennsylvania Association of Hospital Auxiliaries and served for 11 years in this capacity. She was also the Health Careers Program Chairman and instituted the first Health Careers Day, held in McClellan Hall for secondary public and private school students to become acquainted with the many opportunities in the health field and thus to alleviate manpower shortages. She was influential in getting Governor Raymond P. Shafer to declare November as Health Careers Month in Pennsylvania.

In the spring of 1968 the Board pledged $200,000 over a period of two years of renovate the fourth floor of the old Main Hospital. The Activities Committee auctioned a large shipment of furniture donated by Sloan’s in New York, a gift arranged by Gustave Amsterdam, which netted $4,500. Mrs. Amsterdam, Chairman of the

Fig. 58-17, “Dolls and Dollars,” a TV Quiz Show, 1966, advertised the Old Market Fair. Left to right are Lynn Dowling, Hattie Williams and Eloise Bowers.
1968 Old Market Fair, also secured a Plymouth car to be “chanced off” (Figure 8-19). A patron’s letter was started, with a mailing list of 4,000 names. The Phantom Valentine Party was eliminated, and a cocktail-fashion show at Nan Duskin, held in April as a pre-Fair event, was established. Proceeds from the Fair amounted to $16,478, with expenses of $7,892. Mrs. William Bodine was appointed Chairman for 1969. The tenth and last Playhouse in the Park event netted $1,168 for the Martha Jefferson Committee.

The Pennwise Shop grossed $36,390 with a net profit of $15,371. The Maternity Committee purchased a respirator isolette for premature babies at $6,000, and the Bronchoscopic Committee gave an operating room table costing $2,785. New beds, furniture, and a television were also supplied.

By the end of 1968 the mortgage on the Pennwise Shop was paid in full, and the building was owned by the Board. A mortgage-burning party was held, and the ashes were saved for the cornerstone of a building that might be erected in the future (Figure 8-20). Most of the Shop’s volunteers at this time were nonmembers of the Board.

In 1969 a citation was bestowed on Mrs.
Michael Foley (Figure 58-21), the outgoing President. Mrs. Samuel M.V.H. Hamilton (Figure 58-22) was installed as President. It was ruled that all past presidents would serve as an advisory council. Mrs. Horace Williams resigned after having served 15 years as Treasurer. During the summer the Pennywise Shop purchased the Pep Boys Store next door for $40,000. This wise move was justified by increasing inventory and profits. Plaques honoring the renovations by the Women's Board were installed on the fourth and sixth floors of the old Main Hospital. The Old Market Fair earned $23,175. In December, Mrs. Sherman Eger reactivated the Children's Committee. Susan B. Bland died, and her daughter donated 30 unframed paintings by her mother to the Board for use in decorating the Hospital.

The 1970s

In 1970 the Women's Board consisted of nine committees. Meetings were moved to the Thompson Annex Auditorium. Priority was given to plans for funding a heliport on top of the Foerderer Pavilion. The Martha Jefferson Committee donated $3,500 to furnish the Family Therapy Unit at the Community Health Center on Twelfth Street. A plaque to honor Lillian James, a longtime member of this Committee, was installed in this new facility.

An Eakins Exhibition and Reception in March, 1971, at the Philadelphia Museum of Art was supported by the mailing of 6,000 invitations. The Pennsylvania Association of Hospital Auxiliaries requested a member of the Jefferson Women's Board to serve as Treasurer for this organization. Mrs. Benjamin Haskell volunteered and was duly elected. Mrs. Samuel Hamilton served as Chairman of the 1971 Old Market Fair. The

Fig. 58-20. The Mortgage-Burning Party, 1968. Left to right: Mrs. Samuel M.V.H. Hamilton, Mrs. Calvin Rankin, Mrs. Frank Fogarty, and Jane Trent.
proceeds of $10,660 were allotted to the heliport project. The Pennywise Shop (Figure 58-23) had a net profit of $15,000. The total contribution to the hospital by all the committees that year was $157,904. In September, Mabel Prevost announced to the Board that the Health Careers Program begun in 1967 would be terminated, citing an austerity policy in all hospital areas as the reason. The wards’ cart service of the Martha Jefferson Committee was experiencing a shortage of volunteers. The Volunteer Department of the Hospital was called upon to take over this management.

The heliport, designed for special emergencies, was funded for $81,000 by the Women’s Board and dedicated in September, 1971 (Figures 58-24 and 58-25). In November, Mrs. Calvin Rankin and Mrs. Alarik Myrin were honored at the Pennywise Shop’s luncheon for the volunteers. The ten-year profit of the Shop since its inception totaled $147,000. On one occasion a Rembrandt print was sold there for $600. An unrestricted gift of $2,500 was donated to the Hospital in memory of Mrs. Myrin who had recently died.

The Salute to Spring dinner dance of the Activities Committee was held at the new Philadelphia County Medical Society building on Spring Garden Street.

In January, 1972, the Women’s Board solicited the Board of Trustees for funds to buy an automobile for the Old Market Street Fair. The Charity Ball expenses were $6,000 greater this year because of the first debutante presentations, which resulted in smaller allocations to the various hospitals. A refurbished portrait of Clara Melville, former Director of Nurses, was hung in the Nurses’ Residence lounge. The Curtis Clinic Committee considered disbursing after the death of Mrs. Myrin, but on advice of the
Administration to continue, the helm was taken by Mrs. Robert Liversidge. The Maternity Committee purchased two isolettes for $3,142 and a cardiac monitor for $2,500. It also donated $2,000 for the transport of high-risk infants to Jefferson by helicopter for patients unable to pay for this cost. An allocation of $15,000 for the kidney dialysis unit was made, and residual funds allocated for the intensive care unit of the nursery.

In May, 1972, Mrs. James P. Cavanaugh (Figure 58-26) was elected President. She reinstated the Projects Committee with Mrs. Ralph Carabasi as Chairman. By November, plans for the first Jefferson Jewel Party were underway with Mrs. James Meyers as Chairman. An exquisite brooch was donated by a New York jeweler, David Webb. In February, 1973, Mrs. Paul Bowers presented a workshop on career recruitment for the Pennsylvania Association of Hospital Auxiliaries at Presbyterian Hospital. She had previously presented a seminar for this association at the annual state conference at Penn State University. The Curtis Clinic Committee undertook the


FIG. 58-24. The Jefferson Hospital Heliport Dedication, September, 1971. From left to right: Mrs. Frederick Schmidt, Mrs. John Kreemer, Mrs. Thomas Mangan, Mrs. Samuel Hamilton, Mrs. Thomas McDevitt and Mrs. Frank Fogarty.
November, Betty Towbridge, Charity Ball Chairman, presented a detailed accounting of the
declining proceeds of this program since 1965. A serious study for further participation was
recommended, but no action was taken. In December the Martha Jefferson Committee
contributed $7,500 to the Ophthalmology Department for purchase of a Zeiss slit lamp for
stereophotography in the care of nearly 4,000 patients yearly. At the same meeting Michael
Bradley, the hospital’s certified public accountant, offered free auditing of the books of the Board as
well as an annual overview of the Board’s financial resources. The Martha Jefferson Committee at this
time established house tours in Society Hill to aid the Old Market Fair.
In January, 1974, the Pennywise Shop received
an $71,000 donation that provided a new furnace
and needed repairs. William Bodine explained that
the goal of Sesquicentennial Campaign was a new
clinical teaching facility (hospital) at a cost of $65
million. Edwin Taylor, the Medical Director, and
Michael Bradley, from accounting, explained the
internal revenue rulings that mandated that funds
must be spent in the year raised.
The School of Nursing in October moved its
offices to the Health Sciences Center and
supervision of the Nurses’ Residence was turned

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In May, Mrs. Samuel Vauclain became
Chairman of the Pennywise Shop. In August, the
shop occupied its new enlarged quarters, which
included the adjacent recently purchased Pep Boys
store. There was poor response to the need for
more volunteers, with only 55 workers on small
shifts. Theft was becoming a problem. In 1973 a
Jefferson student won the scholarship initiated by
Mrs. Bowers and funded through the generosity
of the American Legion’s Helen Fairchild Nurses
Post No. 412. By then there were three male
student nurses in Jefferson’s freshman class.
The Women’s Board was informed in October
that the quota for the Sesquicentennial (1824–
1974) Campaign was set at $100,000. In
over to the University Housing Authority. Meetings of the Board were now held in the fourteenth floor Board Room of the Foerderer Pavilion. Revision of the bylaws was ordered.

The Martha Jefferson Committee sponsored a citywide sculpture tour with luncheon at Alden Park Manor, which was well subscribed. Each committee had the privilege of choosing its own project to support and the choices suggested by the Administration were not binding. In this year the Board allocated $75,000 for an acute respiratory care unit for the Barton Memorial Hospital. The Board contributed to Christmas decorations for the Hospital. Suggested sites for holding the second Jefferson Jewel Party were the Tonner estate and “Sugar Loaf.” An unrestricted contribution of $5,000, sent by Martha Jefferson member, Mrs. Helen Lavine, was applied to the Sesquicentennial Campaign fund.

In January, 1975, the Whirly Girls, an international group of women pilots, presented the Judy Short Award to the Women’s Board for establishment of the heliport at Jefferson.

The Pennywise Shop received a gift of $14,850 that was to be used for physical improvements of the building. The founder of the shop, Mrs. Calvin Rankin, died in February, and a memorial fund was established in her name.

The Sesquicentennial Campaign ended in May 1975, with $88,038 received from a 29% participation of members of the Women’s Board. Medical Director Edwin Taylor reported that a new hospital with 411 beds was to be built in the next 36 to 39 months. The Board also allocated $55,000 for a new autoclave and to provide residual funds for renovation of the acute psychiatric unit. The Charity Ball was held in December at the Sheraton Hotel with proceeds of $2,188. Mrs. Samuel Vauclain, III (Figure 58-27) became the fourteenth President in May, 1975.

In January, 1976, the Martha Jefferson Committee commissioned a memorial portrait of Mrs. Calvin Rankin to be painted by Board member Mrs. Paul Poinsard. This was dedicated on May 24 and hung in the psychiatric unit. Samuel Vauclain became Treasurer of the Pennywise Shop in February, and Oliver Robbins was elected to account for consignment bookkeeping and monthly statements. A luncheon was held for the 75 volunteers on March 31 at the Merion Cricket Club, at which President Peter Herbut spoke briefly. The entire Jefferson community was shocked to learn of Dr. Herbut’s sudden death later that afternoon.

The 1977 Jefferson Jewel, a diamond bracelet valued at $3,000, was purchased for $1,000. The chances netted $8,720. That year Bailey, Banks, and Biddle hosted a benefit party for the Women’s Board, and Community Clothes for Charity selected Jefferson as its beneficiary. The Pennywise Shop conducted its first house sale, which netted $30,000 and reported a 40% increase in profits over the previous ten years.

At the October general meeting of the Board, Dr. Lewis Bluemle, the new University President who had assumed office in August, was introduced. He informed the Board that the State Legislature had vetoed a $750,000 appropriation to Jefferson and thus the funds provided by the Board now counted as hard dollars in terms of dependability.

For the 1977 year, $12,365 was donated for emergency room needs and $94,215 for capital needs. A plaque honoring the Board for its contributions toward renovation of the Foerderer Pavilion

The lobby was placed in that location. The New Hospital had been dedicated on June 9 after graduation.

Mrs. John Kreemer (Figure 58-28 and 58-29) was installed as President in May, 1978. Contributions of the Board that year to the hospital totaled $144,000. The House Committee merged with the Curtis Clinic Committee. The Pennywise Shop submitted $45,000 for allocation to Board projects. The Women’s Board was given office space in the New Hospital in the atrium area, Room 2020B, and furnishings were purchased for $2,045. In the fall Dr. Francis Sweeney discussed the establishment of a Health Education Committee for presenting public education on health matters to the community surrounding Jefferson together with inpatient education via the hospital’s closed circuit television. The Community Clothes Charity netted $14,500 for Jefferson and the Old Market Fair grossed $13,260. The final student nurses’ tea sponsored by the Board was held on December 6. The diploma program in nursing was to start phasing out in 1980.

In the spring of 1979 planning began for the Charity Ball, which would celebrate its Centennial year. The two-day Old Market Fair grossed $20,218. The Jefferson Jewel Party was held at the home of President and Mrs. Bluemle.

The 1980s

In the fall of 1980 the Women’s Board received the prestigious Cornerstone Award of the University. This was bestowed at the President’s Club dinner held at the Franklin Institute and subsequently placed in the Board’s office.

An electric wheelchair for patients with spinal cord injury was purchased for $10,000 and other
projects underwritten for a total of $84,500. Additionally, $35,000 was given to the Blood Donor Center.

The Jefferson Jewel Party was held again at the home of President and Mrs. Bluemle. The cost of chances was raised to $50 on a diamond-and-sapphire brooch valued at $4,850. The Nan Duskin Cocktail-Fashion Party was renewed (Figure 58-30). Tickets for $100 included supper at La Panetiere restaurant. In this year the School of Nursing Committee changed its name to Burt-Melville.

Mrs. Ralph A. Carabasi (Figure 58-31) was elected the sixteenth President of the Women’s Board in May, 1981. Upon her resignation in August, Mrs. Paul A. Bowers (Figure 58-32) assumed the office. Meetings were then held in the Board Room of the Scott Building for the first time. The Fair proceeds of this year with its supporting events amounted to $50,000. Special emphasis was placed upon streamlining the management of the Board for efficiency as well as compliance with the financial requirements of the outside regulatory agencies and the University policies. The President initiated the Board’s first Newsletter, and a mini-history of the Board was prepared for Directions.

A total of $152,300 was contributed to the Hospital for the year 1981. The projects funded by the Board were a heart-lung machine for $30,000, four dialysis machines for $18,000, a transcutaneous PO$_2$ monitor for $13,000, wheels program for $33,000, a blood processor for $35,000, three isolettes for $10,500, and televisions for the neurologic intensive care unit for $12,000.

In November the Board hosted a reciprocal luncheon for the Wills Eye Women’s Board, at which occasion Dr. Bluemle spoke about the new Eakins Gallery. An authorization policy was established for Board members to receive

![FIG. 58-10. Mrs. Ralph Carabasi, Dr. Peter Herbut, Mrs. Frederick Schmidt, and Mrs. Herbert Luscombe at Nan Duskin Cocktail-Fashion Show.](image-url)
reimbursement for expenses at obligatory meetings and conventions. A volunteer coordinator was appointed to aid staffing the Pennywise Shop, which had only 12 regular volunteers since the Shop opened.

In March, 1982, the first Magic Moments dinner dance was held at the new Hershey Hotel. This event was a first venture between the Women’s Board and the Board of Trustees. With 350 subscribers it grossed $56,680 and a net profit of nearly $20,000. The final nurses’ graduation was held in June, and the School of Nursing closed in July.

A total of $99,300 was allocated for neonatal monitors and other accessories. For the Pennywise Shop it was a time of litigation with the township over the significant loss of parking space when the new police headquarters was built. Only 13 parking spaces were allocated for the public with a resultant loss of customers and revenue. Jefferson’s legal service and the township satisfactorily resolved the problem. Roberta Pew-Bandy donated 708 shares of Sun Oil with a book value of $22,000. This money was used to purchase draperies for the renovated Foerderer Pavilion patient rooms.

In January, 1983, a special meeting was called to hear recommendations by the University’s auditing department concerning financial records and reporting by the Board to conform strictly with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. In February the Burt-Melville Committee took over the Emergency Aid Bazaar booth. In April the Activities Committee gave notice that it was disbanding after 74 years of service. Dating back to 1909 it was the second oldest committee. A sum of $6,930 from its treasury was submitted to the Board. At this time the Maternity Committee agreed to accept the responsibilities of the inactive Children’s Department. Also in April, Mrs. Norman Hayes donated $5,000 for the Rehabilitation Unit.

In May the Barton Committee ran what was to be its final Fair. After 19 years this activity was discontinued because of increasing costs and decreasing proceeds. A tomfoolery party was held at the Philadelphia College of Art, which netted $46,812, and the Pennywise Shop netted $700 from sale of clothing donated at the party. The Nan Duskin-La Panetiere Party in the fall raised
$16,616. The Board also received a percentage of sales receipts at Nan Duskin’s of $1,671.

In October the administration hosted a luncheon to celebrate the Pennywise Shop’s contribution of $1 million to the hospital (Figure 58-33). The 71 volunteers in attendance witnessed the unveiling of a bronze commemorative plaque by Frederic L. Ballard, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. This plaque was to be installed in the Shop and another, listing all Presidents of the Women’s Board since 1908, was to be placed in the atrium at the entrance of the Women’s Board office. The Board received a gift of $35,000 from the sale of old x-ray film. The Maternity Committee netted $6,416 from its operation of the Charity Ball and reported that it had given $98,000 to the hospital during the previous six years. The projects funded during 1983 were 13 new dialysis machines at $58,000 each, four adult ventilators at $13,000 each, four infant respirators at $16,000, and an intensive care nursery at $26,400.

In February, 1984, the Barton Committee instituted a Phantom Fair fund-raiser that netted $4,150. In April the formal merger of the Children’s Committee into the Maternity Committee was consummated. This reduced the composition of the Board to six major committees. At this time Dr. Francis Sweeney, Vice President for Health Services and Hospital Director, left for a new post at Temple University. At the annual May meeting the Presidential Report noted a record contribution of $304,000 for the year and a total of $678,958 for the previous three years. The Jefferson Jewel Party, chaired by Mrs. Samuel Vauclain, raised $97,363.
for the decade of 1973-1983. The Magic Moments second dinner dance, celebrating the return of Eakins’ Gross Clinic painting from Paris, was held in September in Jefferson Alumni Hall. The Pennywise Shop remained the major source of income with a contribution of $122,147. The Board of Trustees, in a resolution of June 4, 1984, expressed “gratitude and appreciation” to Mrs. Bowers “for her years of dedicated service and loyalty to Thomas Jefferson University” and presented to her the Jefferson Service Award.

At this meeting Mrs. Peter A. Theodos (Figure 58-H) was installed as the 18th President of the Women’s Board. Three new projects in her term of office were a lecture series at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, a financial seminar underwritten by First Pennsylvania Bank, and “An Evening of Tennis.” The Women’s Board pledged the sum of $150,000 over a period of three years for the new Bodine Radiation Center at Jefferson.

The Women’s Board projects for 1984-1985 were: (1) Bodine Radiation Center, $60,000; (2) Rehabilitation Unit Renovation, $121,000; and (3) Equipment for Women’s and Children’s Care Program, $87,000. The programs for the General Board Meetings instituted in 1982, for which physicians from various Hospital Departments and others in the University were guest speakers, continued.

The Women’s Board projects for 1985-1986 were: (1) Bodine Radiation Center, $60,000; (2) medical respiratory intensive care unit monitoring center, $70,000; (3) operating microscope, $15,000; (4) 20 wheelchairs, $12,000; (5) 18 chair beds, $9,000; (6) hospital beds, $32,624; (7) ten dynamos, $20,000; (8) E-Z movers $20,000; (9) bed-check alarm system, $12,000; (10) pediatric porch, $15,000. For this year, a total of $271,647 was contributed to the Hospital.

For 1986-1987 the Women’s Board projects were: (1) Bodine Radiation Center, $60,000; (2) ten television sets for dialysis unit, $8,200; (3) intermediate cardiac care unit monitoring equipment, $8,000; (4) two dialysis machines, $7,000; (5) one operating room surgical light, $20,000; (6) one oximeter, $4,000; (7) hospitality suite for families of surgical patients, $50,000; (8) waiting room for acute dialysis unit, $1,800; (9) exercise equipment and educational materials for chronic renal disease patients, $15,000; and (10) chairs for intermediate dialysis unit, $2,800. The total amount contributed to the Hospital for the year was $165,800. Women’s Board receipts for the year were $214,459.65. Departmental contributions to the Hospital totaled another $9,287.

Magic Moments IV was held in March, 1987, at the new Curtis Center (Sixth and Walnut Streets) with 214 attendees. The gross receipts totaled $56,885, and the net profit was $16,650.

In April, 1987, Michael Bradley, Executive Director of the Hospital, entertained members of the Executive Committee and past Presidents living in the area at a luncheon in the newly renovated Foerderer Board Room. A lively informative question-and-answer period followed. At the annual May meeting Annie K. V. Klotz succeeded Mrs. Theodos as President.

The history of an organization is a chronicle of the sum of its achievements. The importance of nine decades must be measured in terms of events and accomplishments. The Women's Board in the rise and fall of its fortunes has maintained the vision of its small group of dedicated founders. Inspired by a fruitful heritage, the Board continues to explore how it can better serve Jefferson in times of increasing change and challenges.