

'Bright Side' Is an Apt Name for Nursing Home

Elderly Patients Dance, Sing At Fete Opening New Addition

By MILDRED TAYLOR

Smiles lighted the gentle faces of the women gathered around the piano. Patients in wheel chairs clapped fragile hands, slippered feet tapped out the time. Some of the bent ladies got up to dance in the arms of nurses as Mrs. Emile Bonnot, a regular visitor, played such tunes as "Sweet Rosie O'Grady", "A Bicycle Built for Two" and "When You Wore a Tulip".

Bright Side seemed an especially apt name for the nursing home at 304 last Sunday, a gloomy, rainy day. There was a festive air inside the home during the party that followed the cutting by Mayor Matthew Feldman of a ribbon officially opening the new wing of the home where Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wallace have wrought handsome changes since they took over five years ago.

The home, as spic and span as the most modern hospital, affords pleasant surroundings for 55 patients ranging in age from 48 to 99. Mrs. Lizzie Rivers, the oldest, is looking forward to her 100th birthday in February. The youngest patient, a victim of cerebral palsy, can always be found near the piano when music is going on.

Rooms in the new wing are light, airy and cheerful. Each patient has her own platform rocker. Windows, with plants on the sills, are hung with attractive draperies. There are 30 nurses on the staff.

Comfort and Safety

Everything in the home is planned for the comfort and safety of the patients. There are handrails along the wall for those who feel unsafe in walking. Halls are wide to accommodate wheel chairs. Ramps lead to the grounds where patients may enjoy the sunshine.

"The women love Teaneck Road," says Mrs. Wallace, a registered nurse. "They like to see what is going on and never tire of watching people going about their affairs."

Meals are served on trays in the rooms, because of special diets. Mrs. Helen Meissner, a jovial woman who last summer invited patients to a barbecue in her own back yard, presides over the pink and white kitchen in the older part of the building. The home caters to the patients' likes and

dislikes about food, says Mrs. Wallace. In the kitchen is a list of foods certain patients do not care for—like peanut butter, liver, beans, fish, casserole dishes and spaghetti.

Wheel Chair Shower

The large bathing room is so planned that patients in wheel chairs may enjoy showers. Special chairs are rolled right under the shower which has a swivel valve within easy reach. The tub is set high so nurses may assist patients taking tub baths. The room is also used as a beauty parlor. A hair dresser visits the home about every six weeks to give permanents, shampoos and wave sets.

"It doesn't take long for newcomers to become happily adjusted," says Mrs. Wallace. "Some may come reluctantly, but in a few days they fall in with the routine and enjoy their surroundings and new friends. We place together people in the same age groups and with similar physical ability."

"We have many visitors. Girl Scouts and Brownies come regularly, bringing cookies and tray favors and providing entertainment. Garden Club members send flowers," she said, pointing to a basket of fresh flowers brought in that morning by Mrs. F. C. Herrmann. Books are supplied by the library.

Special treatment equipment includes parallel bars where patients learn to walk again, and a shoulder wheel to help those who have suffered strokes afflicting the upper part of the body. There are walkers for unsteady patients.

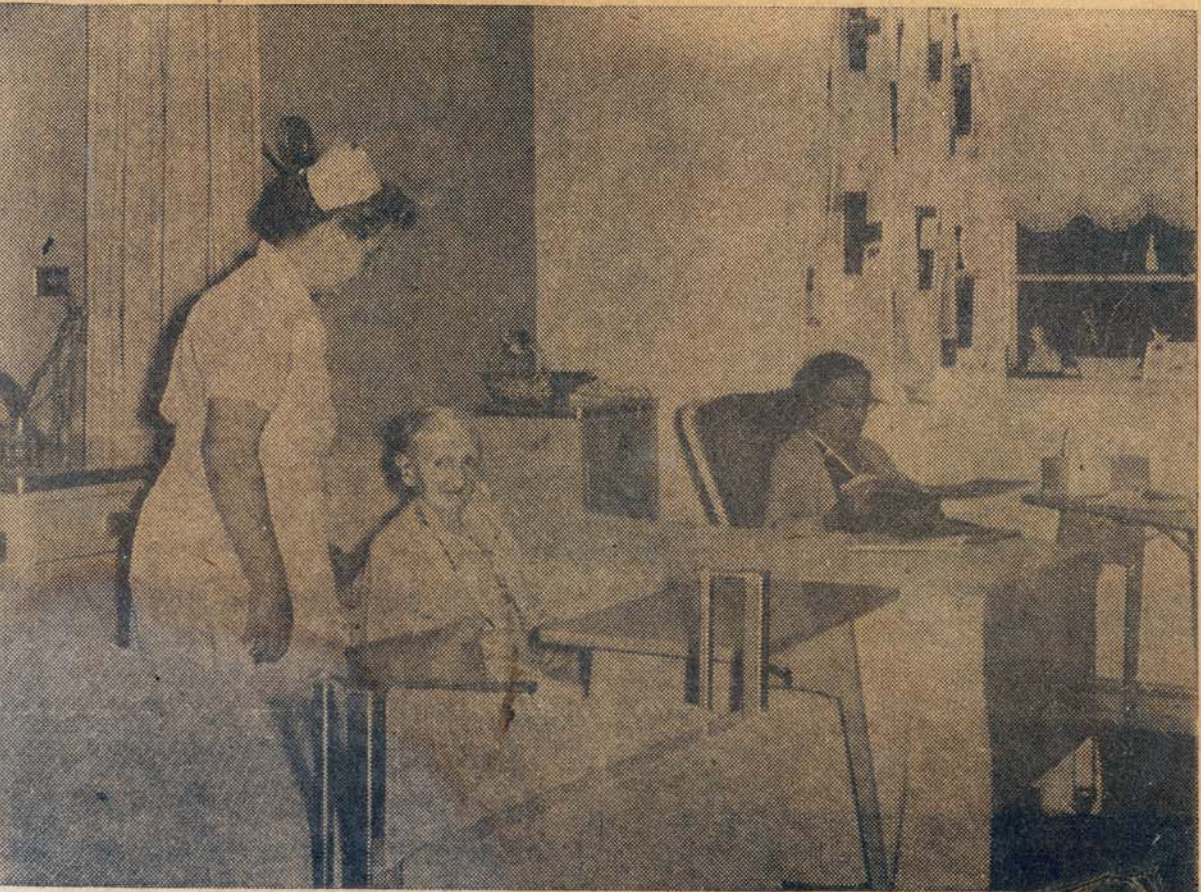
There is television for those who enjoy it and a sheltered porch where the patients may sit, alone with their thoughts, chatting with each other or just watching the traffic going by on Teaneck Road.



MUSIC, especially songs of by-gone days, delights patients at Bright Side Nursing Home. Mrs. Emile Bonnot plays the piano whenever she comes to call. Mrs. Katherine Outwater, 95, listens in her wheel chair. Mrs. Ada Hartman sings.



OLDEST PATIENT: Mrs. Lizzie Rivers, left, is looking forward to her 100th birthday in February. She is escorted by Nurse Evelyn Haas as she joins the group around the piano. Miss Carie Craft, 79, takes a turn around the floor with Mrs. Pearl Wallace, director.



READY FOR VISITORS: Mrs. Nora O'Brien, R.N., inquires as to the comfort of Mrs. Amanda McIntosh and Mrs. Rebecca Russell as they wait in their attractive room for Sunday callers. (Oxford Photos).



RIBBON CUTTING for the new wing officially opened last Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wallace, directors, are pictured with Mayor Matthew Feldman and Frank C. Barry, Chamber of Commerce executive director.