

# The Quarterly Bulletin of The Frontier Nursing Service, Inc.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
(Condensed)

VOL. XI

SUMMER, 1935

NO. 1



COURIER WATERING HORSES



THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF  
THE FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE, Inc.

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VOLUME XI

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## HOUSE PROTECTING

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(Found in a Highland Cottage)

God, bless the world and all that is therein,  
God, bless my spouse and my children,  
God, bless the eye that is in my head,  
And bless, O God, the handling of my hand,  
What time I rise in the morning early,  
What time I lie down late in bed,

Bless my rising in the morning early,  
And my lying down in bed.

God, protect the house and the household,  
God, consecrate the children of the Motherhood,  
God, encompass the flocks and the young,  
Be Thou after them and tending them.  
What time the flocks ascend the hill and wold,  
What time I lie down in peace to sleep.

—From *Carmina Gadelica*,  
by Carmichael.



## IN MEMORIAM

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### WILL ROGERS

"God rest you merry gentleman  
Let nothing you dismay."

The death of this dear and distinguished American has plunged the whole nation into grief. I was going from Kentucky to Los Angeles in a ship of the American Airways, whose chief pilot, Tom Harding, had often carried Will Rogers over the same route. We landed at the Memphis airport to refuel and word reached us over the radio that Rogers' body and Wiley Post's had been found in Alaska. The stewardess and I were the only women on the ship but we weren't the only people with wet eyes. I never saw a group of men, from Tom Harding on down through all the passengers, show more profound evidence of grief. During the few minutes before we took off, we gathered in a little group and discussed the incredible news.

At Fort Worth, Texas, where we had to wait for some hours for our night connection for Los Angeles, I went to the moving pictures to see Shirley Temple in *Curly Top*. Just before the feature the screen called for two minutes of absolute silence in Will Rogers' memory and said that this was being done all over the United States.

At Phoenix, Arizona, the next morning; at the emergency airport of Indio, in the desert; everywhere, the talk was of him, but it was talk that immediately lapsed into painful silence.

We have dug out of our files a personal letter from Will Rogers, written to me in February, 1933, just before our Belgenland Cruise. It was too personal a letter to make public at the time and, like a number of such letters from high and low, public and private people, remained buried for years in our private files. We print it now because it is characteristic of him. He never did get in to see us although he said more than once that he would do it. What he wanted was an airplane landing so as to reduce the long hours of getting in to our Kentucky hills. This letter, like everything else he ever said or did, embodies that saying of the Master in Matthew, Chapter 5, Verse 48, so well rendered from the Aramaic idiom by the Torrey edition, "Be all-including in your good will, even as your Heavenly Father includes all."



“Well if it aint Mary Breckinridge:

I have read more about you than I have Mahatma Gandhi. I got the book and I can ride those mountains blindfolded. I can't be a midwife but I can sure hold the nurse's horse. Now about this pilgrimage you are making to the West Indies in behalf of better babies in Kentucky. Thats a kind of a round about way to deliver babies, but it sounds mighty sound and practical. And they say you can live cheaper on one of these trips than you can at home. Lots of folks are making em just to dodge their daily mail from creditors.

Now I can't go. You can't do nothing when you are in the movies but just stay home and make faces at the world.

I would sure take you up on the thing, but it would be mighty slow traveling. I can and have made that same trip between breakfast and 'supper.' But its good for you 'old folks' that are in no hurry.

The trip I want to make is right out in that virgin baby country of yours. I can talk to those people that are breeding these babies, but I never could understand a black negro in Jamaica that spoke English better than Lady Astor.

Then the next island you go to the negro speaks French like Ann Morgan. So when I get some time off I am heading for this incubator country of yours. You can't beat old Kentucky for a breeding ground. Its the limestone in the soil, and the corn in the jug that does it.

What become of the Chinese Breckinridge? There is another good breeding ground is that China. He had just been made a 'General' when I saw him in Peking. So there is liable to be Breckinridges all through those Mongolian Mountains too.

Well anyhow good luck to you on your trip. I am going to see if I can't write something about the trip in a Sunday article drawing folks attention to it and the cause it is for.

So save me a good mule and a good nurse and I am ready to go into the mountains and see 'How Life Begins.'

Good luck to you and your fine cause.”

(Signed) WILL ROGERS.



## ANNUAL REPORT

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Again we condense our annual report to reduce the costs of printing. For the immediate benefit of our readers we will now give a brief summary of the fiscal year, which closed May 10, 1935, both as to funds and as to the work.

### FISCAL REPORT

We received this year from all sources, including nursing and medical fees, investment income, sales of books, revenue from Wendover Post Office, refunds, etc., but exclusive of \$8,000.00 added to the endowment fund of the Hyden Hospital, a total of \$74,946.50. We sent out our usual Christmas appeal for toys for the children on a post card to reduce postage costs, and we also sent out our regular spring "Saddlebag" appeal. We gained 297 new subscribers during the past fiscal year and 185 people sent \$2,376.40 in response to our 10 per cent appeal.

Obviously, the total sum received, \$74,946.50 (exclusive of endowment fund) did not meet our budget of \$80,000.00 and we are approximately \$5,000.00 short on last year's budget. During the current fiscal year, namely, this past summer, we have endeavored to make up this deficit in the following manner.

The members and trustees present at the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Frontier Nursing Service on May 25, 1935, adopted the following Resolution:

Resolved, That the members and trustees of the Frontier Nursing Service, assembled for its Annual Meeting at the Country Club, near Lexington, Kentucky, on May 25th, 1935, do hereby, in honor of the Tenth Birthday of the Frontier Nursing Service, make the following request, to which they also pledge themselves, of the two thousand Service Members, scattered all over the world, who support the Frontier Nursing Service with their subscriptions; namely: That each Service Member during the current fiscal year endeavor to enlist one other Service Member to join the ranks of subscribers to the Frontier Nursing Service, in order to widen the interest in this unique piece of work, and to broaden the basis of its support.



Resolved further, That the members and trustees here present request the Service Members of the Frontier Nursing Service wherever possible, to remember its Endowment Fund in their Wills, or build up by degrees an Endowment in their lifetimes.

Resolved further, That the Director is instructed to send a copy of this Resolution to each such Service Member with an accompanying personal letter.

Copies of this Resolution were sent out during the summer with an accompanying personal letter from the Director, to approximately 1800 Service Members, viz., all except those known to be traveling abroad or ill, and those who had already increased their subscriptions to meet the deficit. Returns to date indicate that 67 Members got 76 new subscribers who made gifts totaling \$758.25, and 81 Members themselves gave extra funds totaling \$1,995.00.

These results are disappointing. They indicate an heroic effort on the part of less than 200 people, but unless others are willing to work, too, the deficit is not met and the outlook for next year's budget of \$80,000.00 is not promising. We call attention to this situation because when the Frontier Nursing Service reduced its budget from \$120,000.00 to \$80,000.00 several years ago, it effected every possible economy without closing down some of its nursing stations. The economies were chiefly in cutting out its outside offices and reducing its promotional costs, which has resulted in a lessened income, and in the willingness on the part of the staff to accept a fraction of their old salaries. The chief economy, in fact, lies in that direction and cannot be further reduced. If promotional costs are cut out altogether the income will further decrease. We wish to make this plain to all of our friends, as we intend to live within a budget and we are sure they will see that we get the additional money we need, namely \$10,000.00. We are short \$5,000.00 on last year and we will need \$5,000.00 more this year than we received last year to make up this year's budget of \$80,000.00.

#### FIELD AND HOSPITAL

The field nurses carried during the year a total of 7,036 people in 1,416 families. Of these 4,324 were children, including 1931 babies and toddlers. Bedside nursing care was given to



286 very sick people, of whom 14 died. The district nurses paid 17,552 visits and received 20,030 visits at nursing centers. The emergency hospital at Hyden, Ballard-Gill Memorial, was occupied 4,538 days by 433 patients. There were transported to hospitals outside the mountains, in Lexington, Louisville, Cincinnati and Richmond, 37 patients and their attendants, on passes given us by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad.

Under the direction of the State Board of Health, the nurses gave 8,092 inoculations and vaccines against typhoid, diphtheria, smallpox, etc., and sent 159 specimens out for analysis.

We held during the year 182 field clinics with an attendance of 7,840 people.

#### MEDICAL AND SURGICAL

Dr. R. L. Collins and Dr. J. E. Hagen, of Hazard, Kentucky, performed numerous operations during the year, those on indigent people as a courtesy to the Service. None of the doctors in the various cities, to whom we sent patients, made any charges for their services. Our regular medical service was carried by our own medical director, Dr. John H. Kooser; and various physicians from the nearest towns were called in, both for emergencies and at the request of individual patients.

#### MIDWIFERY

The nurse-midwives delivered 351 women in childbirth of 349 live babies, 6 stillbirths, and one late miscarriage; and gave them full prenatal and post-partum care. There was no maternal death. There were 5 sets of twins. There were 374 new cases admitted and 361 cases closed after post-partum care. Of these 16 went to the Hyden Hospital because of some abnormal condition. Physicians were called to 8 district deliveries and examined 81 prenatals and 7 post-partums.

In addition to our regular cases, the nurse-midwives were called in for six emergency deliveries where the mother had not been registered, or given prenatal care; 11 miscarriages (un-



registered cases) ; and they gave post-partum care to 11 unregistered mothers.

The completion of the graded road into Hyden has necessitated a third classification for maternity cases. So far we have had two classifications only, namely, our own registered cases which book with us before delivery and for whose care, whether delivered by the nurse-midwives or a physician, we are entirely responsible; and, secondly, the emergency cases, either carried by the old midwives, who call us in when they get into difficulties, or not carried by anybody. Our nurse-midwives always respond to such cases instantly and at the same time send at once for medical assistance. But this group does not come under the category of our own patients.

The third classification, which we are opening with the beginning of our third 1,000 cases, is composed of outside people who are brought to our hospital because it is the only one in this section of the mountains where free care, if the patient cannot pay anything, is available for indigent women, or because the case is in a bad condition and immediate hospitalization is desired by the patient's friends or attendants. We have had 12 such cases during the last fiscal year, of which one, with a critical heart and kidney condition, sent to our hospital three days before delivery by a private physician outside our territory, died. The baby also died. Of the other 11 cases, all mothers were safely delivered and all babies lived.

We call attention on page 13 of our Bulletin to the report of Dr. Louis I. Dublin, Third Vice-President and Chief Statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, on our second 1,000 maternity cases. In his article called "Lost Mothers," widely circulated through the press, Dr. Dublin says of our maternity work: "It is impossible to parallel this success in any other experience that I know of." He sent us, with his report on our first 1,000 cases, 22 tables, and with the second 1,000 cases, 19 such tables. Obviously, without a special grant to cover the costs, we cannot afford to print them. The summary, which we do print, will be of profound interest to all supporters of our frontier skirmish on a great battlefield, where more American women have died in childbirth in our history as a nation than men in war.



## SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

(Alpha Omicron Pi Fund)

*Care of dependent and neglected children:* 22 children.

*Service to handicapped children:* 5 blind or deaf children.

*Court commitments for institutional cases:* 2 mentally defective persons.

*Service to medical-social cases:* 50 cases—24 sent to hospitals outside; 26 given local care.

*Service to family cases:* 21 families.

*Educational assistance:* 12 children and young persons.

*Advisory service in employment problems:* 15 persons.

*Out-of-district inquiries:* 9 cases.

*Other Service:*

The social service director, Miss Bland Morrow, has, throughout the course of the year, given service on the following committees:

The Leslie County Relief Committee.

The Area Relief Board.

The Executive Committee of the Kentucky Conference of Social Work.

She has helped to organize the following projects in the Frontier Nursing Service:

1. Sewing and knitting classes.
2. Christmas celebrations.
3. Circulating libraries.
4. Debating clubs.

She has also worked on the following programs:

1. Rehabilitation.
2. Forestry under National auspices.
3. Protection of fish and game.
4. Dental clinics.
5. Sanitary toilets.
6. School bridges, wells, and county roads.
7. School books.



8. Diversification of farm and garden crops and improved methods of farming.
9. The organization of a local public improvement association, and local fish and game clubs.

In conclusion we want to mention the splendid work, short-handed and under terrific pressure, by our administrative group, the valuable *liaison* work of our courier service, and the unswerving cooperation and loyalty of both our outside and our local committees, and of our thousands of patients.

MRS. S. THRUSTON BALLARD, Chairman.  
C. N. MANNING, Treasurer.  
MARY BRECKINRIDGE, Director.

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### Sayings of the Children

Alta (badly burned little girl at the Frontier Nursing Service Hospital at Hyden), praying out loud before submitting to a painful dressing: "O, Lord, you know I read your book nearly plum through."

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A faith healer living at Deal  
Said, "Although pain isn't real,  
If I sit on a pin and it punctures my skin,  
I dislike what I fancy I feel."

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Our grateful thanks are extended to the Lexington Herald for again giving itself to all eight of our nursing stations during the past year.

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"I am much pleased with the report of your work and congratulate you and your faithful nurses on their accomplishments."—Dr. J. B. DeLee of Chicago.



**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL OF ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT**

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From

W. A. HIFNER, Jr.

Certified Public Accountant

City Bank Building

Lexington, Ky.

May 24th, 1935.

Mr. C. N. Manning, Treasurer,  
Frontier Nursing Service,  
Lexington, Kentucky.

My dear Mr. Manning:—

A short time ago a friend, a man who is nationally known as being at the very top of his profession, made the statement to me that he did not see how I could work with figures all the time, as the mere thought of figures, especially tabulated statements, almost gave him nervous prostration.

It was a revelation to me that anyone could entertain such an attitude in regard to figures. I had never before realized that to some persons an annual report or financial statement is just another form of the multiplication tables.

To the accountant, figures are merely the tools with which to work. Just as the sculptor makes use of his hammer and chisel to bring forth out of the rough marble his conception of a Venus de Milo, so, also, does the accountant make use of figures to convey his conception of facts and events that have occurred. The accountant's sole function is to assemble the figures in such a manner as to present a true picture of the facts, and his success is measured by the extent to which his assembly is most readily understood.



In transmitting to you, Mr. Treasurer, the annual audit report of the Frontier Nursing Service for the fiscal year just ended, I wish I had the ability to convey to you the succession of exquisitely beautiful pictures these annual reports have visualized to me.

I shall never forget the first audit we made for the Service. The Director walked into our office, a total stranger; dumped on the floor an old rusty pair of saddlebags, and calmly announced that she wanted her accounts straightened out. You will please note that I say "accounts" and not "books", as the Service survived the first several years of its existence without the aid or impediment—according to one's point of view—of books of any kind.

I do not know how familiar you may be with saddlebags, but that was my first introduction to the species, and I am still amazed at the enormous mass of papers that first pair of saddlebags disgorged. They reminded me of nothing else quite so much as an old rag bag my grandmother kept hanging on the inside of her closet door as a receptacle for the most varied assortment of cloth, of every hue and texture, it has ever been my lot to inventory in any department store.

And, just as the contents of that humble old rag bag, under the deft fingers of my grandmother with the aid of her looms and frames, were gradually transmuted into some of the most beautiful quilts, rugs and carpets it is possible to describe, so also, did the simple contents of that first visitation of saddlebags, and its annual successors, when assorted and assembled, depict the realization of hope and the futility of despair; the glory of tasks well done and the satisfaction of service rendered.

I shall not attempt to describe to you all the beautiful scenes these annual reports have brought to my mind, as they are too many and too varied. Their predominating motif, constantly recurring, seems to be the spirit of an intrepid adventurer and pioneer, wearing a girdle of courage, a mantle of faith and hope, a banner of mercy, and a shield of duty; a spirit imbued with an overwhelming and intense love for little children.

In the collaboration of these reports I have been accorded the privilege of witnessing history in its making; where the



warp and woof of a better civilization, in an area larger than many principalities, has been fabricated thru the piecing together and skillful application of an infinitude of small contributions from the four corners of the globe, to the end that generations yet unborn will be endowed with better minds and hearts by reason of a natural heritage of better bodies.

Other pioneers and adventurers have been memorialized in bronze and stone, granite and marble, but to live, both contemporaneously and thruout future generations, in the minds and hearts of men is the high honor justly earned by the Director of the Frontier Nursing Service.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) W. A. HIFNER, JR.

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### **Indian Reservations Study**

We have made during the summer, through Miss Mary B. Willeford and Miss Bland Morrow, a study of the nursing, medical and social aspects of certain Indian Reservations in the Southwest. This was financed by the Guggenheim Foundation, The Sibyl Carter Memorial Fund, and an interested private individual; and was carried out at the request of the U. S. Indian Bureau. The two Indian nurses now with us, Adeline Clark and Virginia Miller, will be placed by the Indian Bureau under Commissioner Collier and Miss Gregg, who asked us if we would help them to determine the places where they could work most effectively. A further mention of this will come in a later Bulletin.

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We had fourteen tides on the Middle Fork and Red Bird Rivers in the late winter and all through the spring, and many landslides. One of our nurses, Miss Grogan, was nearly killed, together with her horse, when a landslide came down on both of them. Some men who were near dashed up and dug them out, but it was a close call.



**METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

New York City

May 22, 1935.

Mrs. Mary Breckinridge,  
Frontier Nursing Service,  
Wendover, Kentucky.

My dear Mrs. Breckinridge:

I am sending you a report on the second thousand cases which you were good enough to make available to us for study. I think you will find very much for gratification in the results. I have gone over the work of Miss Steele who prepared the tabulation and summary and take full responsibility for the accuracy of her results. It seems to me that she has covered all of the important points and you should not hesitate to utilize any of this material in any of your publications. The tables cover the same material as in the first study and comparisons can be made between the first and second thousand. Altogether, I congratulate you on the excellence of your results which present an unapproachable standard for most other maternity services.

If there are any questions or any comments on this statistical report, I do hope you will not hesitate to write to me at once. We are very happy to be able to cooperate with you.

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) LOUIS I. DUBLIN,  
Third Vice President and Statistician.

Dr. Dublin

In re: *Summary of Second 1000 Midwifery  
Records of Frontier Nursing Service.*

The record of the Frontier Nursing Service is indeed an enviable one. The nurses of that organization have delivered their second thousand of mothers without a single maternal death. Since this would be an exceptional record under the most favorable circumstances, its accomplishment under the difficult conditions obtaining in frontier homes is noteworthy. In 1930,



the last year for which figures are available, the rural white population of the United States recorded a maternal death rate of 5.2 per 1,000 live births and Kentucky a rate of 5.0 per 1,000 live births. In a recent study of maternal mortality in New York City, 1930-1932, the puerperal death rate for women delivered by a midwife was 1.6 per 1,000 live births. When the cases were added, in which the midwife had contacted the patient without responsibility for the delivery, the rate was 2.9 per 1,000. The nature of the contact varied from the cases in which the midwife saw the patient only once and immediately called a physician or sent her to the hospital, to the cases in which she remained with the patient while in labor and only called assistance when some disquieting symptom became evident.

Although the group of women served by the Frontier nurses varied in age from the early teens to the late forties, they were, on the whole, from the age standpoint, a favorable group as 16.6 percent were under twenty years of age, and an additional 31.3 percent were between the ages of 20 and 25 years. That is, almost a half of the women were less than 25 years of age.

In spite of the young average age of the mothers (26.3 years) the minority of the women were primigravidae. Only 203 of the 1,000 were in their first pregnancy. On the other hand, over 175 were of gravida eight or more.

If we consider the recommendations of the Federal Children's Bureau as a fair criterion, the women in the group were rather late in registering with the Frontier Nursing Service. The Children's Bureau recommends that the first visit to a clinic or physician be made at or before the fifth calendar month of gestation. In this study, only 21.4 percent registered before the sixth month, 20.5 percent registered during the sixth month, 26.2 percent during the seventh month, 21.3 percent during the eighth month, and 10.6 percent in the ninth month. The primigravidae registered little if any earlier than the multigravidae. However, the experience in this series is in line with many other studies, as generally speaking less than one-fourth of all the cases reported in such studies are registered before the fifth or sixth month. Twenty-eight percent of the 4,726 women studied by the Maternity Center of New York came under observation



before the fifth month. In the 6,117 cases that received prenatal care from the Community Health Association of Boston, only 30 percent of the patients were booked in the first six months of pregnancy. Among the Frontier women, the time of registration varied little in the different age groups. The number of visits for prenatal care, which naturally varies directly with the month of registration is shown in Table VI.

As the Nursing Service covers three periods, pregnancy, labor and puerperium, we have considered the results for each period separately.

### I. *Period of Pregnancy*

Approximately 317 of the women developed one or more abnormalities during pregnancy. One hundred ninety-three of the women recorded puerperal complications, the most common being the toxic conditions and the varicosities, while 163 women reported non-puerperal complications. This latter covered a wide range, the most frequent being simple goiter, diarrhea and enteritis and influenza.

The prenatal care given by the Frontier nurses was successful, on the whole, for those women with toxic conditions of pregnancy, as in only three cases out of a possible 78 did the condition interfere with the birth of a live baby. In all but nine cases the condition was eliminated by the time of confinement.

Altogether, the doctor examined 265 women during pregnancy, 71 being primigravidae and 194 multigravidae. That is, the doctor examined 35 percent of the primigravidae and 24 percent of the multigravidae, included in the group. Altogether he examined three-fifths of the women reporting toxic conditions.

The incidence of the complicating conditions of pregnancy are shown in Tables VII and VIII.

### II. *Period of Labor*

The great majority of the women in the present series of cases were confined in their own homes, although 66 women were taken to the hospital at Hyden, or to one of the other centers for delivery. The doctor was called in on both home and



hospital cases only 61 times (in four cases he was called after delivery). In seven cases, he failed to arrive before the baby was delivered. In about one-half of the cases he was reported as making deliveries. In the remaining cases, he assisted at one or more stages of the delivery, repaired the perineum or examined the newborn. Caesarean operations were necessary in only two cases, an episiotomy in one case and forceps were used in only four others. To appreciate these figures it may be well to recall that in New York, where most cases are attended by doctors, it is estimated that 20 percent of all deliveries are operative and that almost one-half of the operations are Caesarean sections.

The length of labor reported by the nurse in attendance is an estimate and no doubt in many cases a rough estimate, since many of the homes lack time pieces. Labor was reported as lasting from less than one hour up to 70 hours. In three-fourths of the cases of multiparae the labor was of a duration of less than 12 hours, while among the primiparae only one-third reported labor of so short a duration.

Puerperal complications of labor were reported for 277 women, 71 of whom had experienced some abnormality of pregnancy of a puerperal nature. The most common puerperal complication of labor was bleeding of some amount. There were two cases of placenta previa marginalis, two cases of cervical bleeding, 41 cases of persistent trickle and 123 cases of hemorrhage—the loss of 20 ounces or more of blood being considered a hemorrhage as well as those cases so marked. In an additional 76 cases, the amount of blood lost was estimated by the nurse at 15 ounces or more, although the case was not characterized as hemorrhage. The next most common condition was laceration or rupture of the perineum—the tear being of second degree, however, before the condition was so characterized. There were 34 such cases reported.

In 22 cases there was malpresentation of the foetus—one of these cases being twin births. There were 14 cases of extended breech presentation resulting in four stillbirths, three of face presentation with no deaths, three of hand or foot presentations, with three stillbirths, two of shoulder with one still-



birth and one not specified other than as malposition of presenting part, resulting in stillbirth. The seriousness of the malpresentations in terms of foetal mortality is indicated by the nine deaths resulting. In ten out of the 22 cases in which the foetus was presented abnormally, a doctor had examined the mother during pregnancy and in three cases the women had been transferred to the hospital for delivery.

Toxic conditions were reported by 19 women. In nine cases the toxic conditions carried over from pregnancy, while in ten cases they were reported for the first time at labor. There were two cases each of albuminuria and eclampsia, one of edema, one of retention of urine, seven of persistent vomiting and eight of high blood pressure.

Adequate prenatal care not only reduces the maternal mortality, but the number of late abortions and stillbirths. The foetus was carried full term by 959 of the pregnant women—there being only six late abortions and 35 premature confinements in the 1,000 cases. The premature deliveries resulted in 30 live births and nine stillbirths. Among the 959 deliveries at term, there were an additional 14 stillbirths.

The record of six late abortions and 23 stillbirths to 982 live births may be compared with 26 stillbirths to each 974 live births in the experience of the New York Maternity Center and 30 stillbirths to each 970 live births in the Boston Community Health Association. In the rural white population of the United States, in 1932, there were 31 stillbirths to each 1,000 live births, while in Kentucky the figures were the same for the rural white population.

Since the risk of death for the foetus is much greater when the mother develops a puerperal complication in pregnancy, it is of interest to observe the results in this study. We find 46 stillbirths to 1,000 births among women with puerperal complications in pregnancy and 25 stillbirths to 1,000 births for those without such complications. In a study which has been mentioned previously, the Community Health Association of Boston, the ratio of stillbirths was 58 to 1,000 births, when puerperal complications occurred during pregnancy, but only 23 in 1,000 if complications were absent. In the New York Maternity Cen-



ter Association, the figures were 39 stillbirths per 1,000 women with complications of pregnancy and only 19 per 1,000 for those without such complications.

Although the number of foetal deaths is limited, it may be of interest to examine the maternal conditions associated with their deaths. Six cases were late abortions—one case had placenta previa marginalis, nine with malpresentations, two had prolonged labor and for 11, no reason was apparent. In 13 cases the mother had been examined by a doctor and in six cases transferred to the hospital for delivery. There was a doctor on the case at time of delivery in 24.1 percent of the late abortions and stillbirths, a nurse alone in 58.6 percent and in five cases, the infant was born before the arrival of the nurse. For the live births, the doctor was on the case at time of delivery in 4.4 percent of the cases, the nurse alone in 84.3 percent and the infant was born before the nurse arrived in 110 cases. The causes of death of the stillbirths are itemized in Table XII.

### III. *Period of Puerperium*

If we take the condition of the mother at the end of one month's postpartum care as a measure of the success of the Frontier Nursing Service, we find that the nurses reported the condition of the mother as satisfactory in 955 cases, fair in 43 cases and unsatisfactory in only two cases. These mothers were visited by the nurse nine times on the average during that period. In 927 cases, the women were in their own homes, in 73 cases in the hospital at Hyden or in one of the other centers.

Puerperal complications arose in 83 cases, in 51 cases the difficulty was due to a breast condition, in 18 cases to a toxic condition and in 15 cases, to hemorrhage or to excessive flooding, flowing or bleeding. Varicose veins were reported twice, a thrombosis of the vein once and yellow vaginal discharge, without specifications of gonorrhoea, three times. Finally, there were two cases of exhaustion or collapse. The non-puerperal complications of the puerperium are contained in Table VII.

Among the 83 women with puerperal complications in puerperium 35 had had no difficulty in either pregnancy or labor,



25 had had difficulty in labor, 16 in pregnancy and only seven difficulty in both previous periods.

Another measure of the effectiveness of the nursing service is the infant death rate. In this group, 26 of the 982 infants born alive died before the end of the first month. This is the equivalent of a death rate of 26.5 per 1,000 live births, and compares favorably with the rate of 31.7 in the rural white population of the United States in 1932 and of 31.5 in rural Kentucky in the same year. This is approximately the same as the record established in the first 1,000 cases, as in that group there were only 25 deaths among 989 live births.

#### IV. *Comparison with Earlier Study*

Finally, it may be of interest to compare the outstanding results of the second thousand cases with the first thousand tabulated in 1932.

1. In the first 1,004 cases, there were no maternal deaths due to puerperal causes, although there were two such deaths due to cardiac conditions. In the present group of cases, there were no maternal deaths from either puerperal or general causes.

2. The infant mortality was similar in the second series to that in the first. In the first 1,004 cases, there was one late abortion, 26 stillbirths, 989 live births and 25 infant deaths within the first month. In the second series, there were six late abortions, 23 stillbirths, 982 live births and 26 infant deaths during the first month.

3. The doctor's service was used in 52 cases for the first series and in 61 cases for the second series.

4. The nurse arrived after the baby was born the same number of times in both series (115 times).



5. In the first 1,004 cases, approximately 18 percent of the women registered before the sixth month. In the second series, 21 percent registered before the sixth month.

6. There were 287 women with puerperal complications during pregnancy in the early group, and 193 in the second group. The greatest differences occurred in the number of toxic conditions and varicosities reported. In the first series, these numbered 200 and 120 respectively. In the second series, their frequencies were 101 and 48.

7. In the first series of cases, 366 women reported 434 puerperal complications in labor. In the second series, 277 women reported 343 puerperal complications. Since the greatest differences occurred in the number of hemorrhages and allied conditions reported—263 as compared with 168—the terms no doubt were defined differently in this study than in the previous one. In the second study, there were 76 cases reported as losing more than 15 ounces of blood without the case being coded as excessive bleeding.

8. In the first group, there were one Caesarean and nine forceps deliveries. In the second group, there were two Caesarean cases, one episiotomy and four forceps deliveries.

9. During the purperium, 89 women reported 95 puerperal complications in the first series and 83 women reported 92 such complications in the second series.

10. Ninety-six percent of the first 1,004 women who were visited up to four weeks after delivery, were reported by the nurse as in satisfactory condition at the end of that period. In the second 1,000, 95.5 percent of the women were so reported at the end of the first month.

(Signed) E. J. STEELE.

5-22-35



TABLE XVII

Analysis of First Thousand and Second Thousand Midwifery  
Records Compared

The Frontier Nursing Service, Inc.

	First 1000 Records.	Second 1000 Records.
Total Pregnancies.....	1004.	1000.
Delivered—		
At term .....	962.	959.
Before term .....	42.	41.
Live births .....	989.	982.
Still births .....	26.	23.
Late abortions .....	1.	6.
Condition of Mother at end of first month—		
Fair .....	44.	43.
Satisfactory .....	958.	955.
Unsatisfactory .....	—	2.
Dead at end of first month—		
Mother .....	2.	—
Baby .....	25.	26.

STATISTICAL BUREAU

May 22, 1935



## Snakes For Dinner

“On going to a delivery in Little Creek while the river was up we had to go across that most awful hill from Little Flat. It was horrible. The people had a copperhead snake fall from the loft, right into the gravy that very day, and another had previously fallen onto the side table.”—Excerpt from letter of Peggy Tinline, nurse-midwife in charge of Flat Creek Center.

---

Two of our horses, Bonny and Bobby, always stand patiently outside of cabins during deliveries until they hear the babies cry. Then they at once begin to paw the ground and whinny because they know it won't be long before they can start home.

---

On May 30th Mrs. Breckinridge addressed 54 foremen on road relief work at the Court House at Hyden. One of the foremen, Vincent Muncey, in charge of the Dry Hill project, stated that he had taught 72 men to write their names so that they could sign their own payroll requisitions.

---

Nurse Kelly, confronted by one of the identical twins, Lige or Bige: “Is it you, or your brother?”

---

“I know of no better constructive job for the saving of human lives. I am indeed proud to be the chairman of the Maryland Committee of the Frontier Nursing Service.”—  
(Signed) John M. Bergland, Baltimore.

---

The Kentucky State Medical Association dedicated, at Danville, Kentucky, on May 30th, the memorial to Jane Todd Crawford, the heroine of the first ovariectomy, performed by Dr. E. McDowell.



## FIELD NOTES

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The courier whose picture is on the front page of this Bulletin is Miss Marion Shouse of Washington, D. C.

\* \* \* \*

We are thrilled to announce the birth of a daughter, Nancy Park, to Dr. and Mrs. John H. Kooser, born August 2nd, at the Frontier Nursing Service Hospital, Hyden, Kentucky. Miss Nancy has now gone to live with her parents at Honeymoon Cottage, on the Hospital grounds. No baby was ever more ardently desired or received with a greater outpouring of love. Her cordial response in bonny looks and friendly gestures indicates that she will be a happiness-giving person her life long.

\* \* \* \*

We acknowledge with deep appreciation a most welcome gift from two friends of a new Model "V" Ford car.

\* \* \* \*

The Service wishes to acknowledge gratefully the free use of their mules by Mr. Elihu Shepherd, Mr. Kermit Morgan, Mr. Jahugh Morgan, Mr. Will Gay, Mr. Perl Lewis and Mr. Shelby Bowling.

\* \* \* \*

Among those who have come to observe the Frontier Nursing Service at first hand during the summer have been: Miss Winifred Ashplant, of the Victorian Order of Nurses of Canada; Miss Yu-Chen Wu, Assistant Head of the Social Work Division, Chingho Experiment Station, Yenching University, China; Miss Manolita Ricart, of Barcelona, Spain; Dr. Aurang Shah, of Jalalabad, Afghanistan, accompanied by Dr. G. F. Rowntree of the Kentucky State Board of Health; Miss Florine Cantrell, of Aguascalientes, Mexico.

\* \* \* \*

Among the Trustees and Service Members who have done us the honor of visiting us in the field during the past year have been: Dr. Charles E. Hagyard, Lexington, Ky.; Mrs. William



Monroe Wright, Lexington, Ky.; Dr. and Mrs. John A. Caldwell, Cincinnati, Ohio; Mr. Charles N. Manning, Lexington, Ky.; Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. Agard, of the University of Wisconsin; President and Mrs. Frank L. McVey, of the University of Kentucky; Dr. and Mrs. Owen J. Toland, Wynnewood, Pa.; Mr. Alex Booth, Louisville, Ky.; Judge and Mrs. S. M. Ward, Wooton, Ky.

\* \* \* \*

We are the proud and grateful recipients of new horses, to replace those taken by the terrific toll from periodic ophthalmia, old age, and other causes during the past year, as follows: "Lady Ellen," the gift of the Missionary Society of St. Paul's Community Church, Homewood, Illinois, in memory of Mrs. Ellen Wagner Thrower; "Rogue," the gift of Mrs. Roger K. Rogan, Cincinnati; "Rex," the gift of Miss Rebecca Crane, New York City; "Captain Pat," the gift of Miss Laurette Robeson, Newport, Rhode Island, and Lazy P. K. Ranch, Flagstaff, Arizona; "Gypsy King," the gift of Mr. J. P. Morgan, New York City; and "Mr. Judy," bought with the proceeds of the moving picture benefit of the Hazard Committee, and named after their Chairman.

In connection with our horses, cows and dogs, we want to express our most grateful thanks, for their generous advice and assistance, to Dr. Charles E. Hagyard, Mr. W. J. Harris and Mr. C. L. Kerr, all of Lexington, Kentucky; to Dr. Reid of Hazard, Kentucky; and to Mr. B. P. Deaton, of Wooton, Kentucky.

\* \* \* \*

For his sound advice and invaluable assistance, constantly and unstintingly rendered, we want to express through these columns our unending gratitude to that member of our Executive Committee who lives in the heart of our territory, Mr. M. C. Begley, of Hyden, Kentucky.

\* \* \* \*

Our senior couriers since the last publication of the Bulletin have been Miss Helen Stone of New York City; Miss Mary Elizabeth Rogan of Cincinnati; Miss Kathleen Wilson of Houston, Texas; and Miss Dorothy Caldwell of Cincinnati. Junior couriers have been: Miss Frances Porteous of Portland, Maine; Miss



Rebecca Crane of New York City; Miss Betty Halsted of Toledo, Ohio; Miss Prudence Holmes of New York City; Miss Betty Butcher of Cambridge, Mass.; Miss Barbara White of Riverdale, New York.

\* \* \* \*

It has been a pleasure to receive visits during the year from a number of our ex-couriers and couriers-elect: Miss Marion Shouse of Washington, D. C.; Miss Mary P. Bradley of Rockville, Maryland; Mrs. Paul B. Magnuson, Jr. (formerly Miss Marianne Stevenson), of Chicago; Miss Mary D. Chase of Milton, Massachusetts.

\* \* \* \*

Valuable volunteer assistance has been given by Miss Lucy Washington Norton of Louisville, Kentucky, in our administrative offices at Wendover; and by Miss Margery Peabody, R. N., of Groton, Massachusetts, in our hospital at Hyden.

\* \* \* \*

We are always gratified to receive visits from representatives of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, which is responsible for the support of our Social Service Department. Those who have come into the field during the past year are: Mrs. Arthur K. Anderson of State College, Pa., President; Mrs. Warren C. Drummond of Evanston, Ill., Chairman of the Social Service Committee; Miss Katherine Davis of New Albany, Ind., in charge of publicity; Miss Carol MacNeil of Chicago.

\* \* \* \*

We are deeply indebted to Dr. Lee Palmer of Louisville, Ky., who gave us a special pediatric clinic at the Hyden Hospital this summer.

\* \* \* \*

Funds from the Mary Parker Gill Fund, through the United States Trust Company of Louisville, Ky., have paid for the repairs to our retaining walls at Hyden Hospital, parts of which had fallen badly and dangerously, due to the exceptionally heavy rains of last year.

\* \* \* \*

Three nurses who have been doing general duty in our hospital at Hyden have gone at their own expense to take the mid-



wifery course which is required before a nurse can be allotted a district post in our Service. Miss Della Int-Hout and Miss Margaret Thomas are taking the course given in New York City at the Lobenstine Clinic, and Miss Mary Cummings has gone to Edinburgh for the course given by the Queen's District Nursing Association in affiliation with the Elsie Inglis Hospital. Miss Int-Hout has received financial assistance for her course through a friend, in memory of "Peggy."

\* \* \* \*

Miss Eva Gilbert returned in June from Edinburgh, where she took the midwifery course, and is in charge of the Margaret Durbin Harper Center at Bowlingtown, in Perry County. This center is the gift of Mrs. Hiram Sibley of Rochester, New York, in memory of her mother.

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### Attention Please!

We have been asked by various university and city libraries for early numbers of our Quarterly Bulletin to complete their files. If any of our readers has one or more of these missing numbers and will send them to the Frontier Nursing Service at Wendover, Kentucky, we shall be deeply appreciative. The numbers desired are as follows: Volume I, No. 1; Volume II, No. 4; Volume IV, No. 2; Volume V, No. 3; Volume IX, No. 2.

---

All of the staff of the Frontier Nursing Service in the field have read a book called "Florian," by Felix Salten, which we consider the best book about a horse that any of us have ever read. This is because the interpretation of the horse, Florian, while profoundly moving, does not give him human reason and human language, as is the case with "Black Beauty," but conveys an impression as true to the personality of horses as any horse lover could conceive. The writer expresses a profound truth, in our opinion, when he states: "The secret door which divides man and beast never opens, no matter how longingly they beat against it."



## BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS

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The Bulletin extends its good wishes to the following ex-couriers, whose marriages have taken place since our last publication: Miss Mary Graver of New York City, to Captain Vladimir S. Littauer, on June first; Miss Dorothea Newman of Boston, to Mr. Theodore Chase, on June twenty-second; Miss Ethel Bartlett of New York City, to Dr. James Edwin Thompson, on July sixth; and Miss Elizabeth Truesdale of Fall River, Massachusetts, to Mr. Martin A. Philippi, on August thirtieth.

\* \* \* \*

We have heard with much interest the news of the birth of a daughter, in Paris, on April 11th, to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Allen Locke of New York City. Mrs. Locke will be remembered as our former courier, Miss Dorothy Clark.

Announcement has also been received of the birth of a son, Timothy Tenny, to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert T. Holbrook, of Milwaukee. Mrs. Holbrook was Miss Betty-Wynn Rugee, another ex-member of our splendid Courier Service.

\* \* \* \*

We have to record with deep regret the death of a distinguished member of our National Medical Council, Dr. Charles A. Fife, of Philadelphia.

\* \* \* \*

We are greatly honored to announce the acceptance of the following new members to our National Board of Trustees: Mrs. Charles Allen, Louisville, Kentucky; Mrs. Desha Breckinridge, Lexington, Kentucky; Major-General J. C. Breckinridge, San Francisco, California; Mrs. Marshall Bullitt, Louisville, Kentucky; Dr. Charles E. Hagyard, Lexington, Kentucky; Mrs. Ex Norton, Louisville, Kentucky; Judge Edward C. O'Rear, Frankfort, Kentucky; Mr. David Prewitt, Lexington, Kentucky; Mrs. Forrester H. Scott, Merion, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Frederic M. Sackett, Louisville, Ky.; and Dr. Charles Franklin Thwing, Cleveland, Ohio.



During the past fiscal year articles about the Frontier Nursing Service have appeared in the following national publications, in addition to hundreds of newspapers and local periodicals of various kinds: The Literary Digest, The Rotarian, Mountain Life and Work, To Dragma (Alpha Omicron Pi National Sorority publication).

Coming over on the S. S. Scythia the attention of one of our nurses was attracted by a write-up of the Service in "Ocean Times," the official boat publication.

\* \* \* \*

A number of clubs and private organizations have had the work of the Frontier Nursing Service presented through its moving picture, "The Forgotten Frontier," and lectures, often accompanied by colored stereopticon slides.

\* \* \* \*

Our grateful thanks are extended to Miss Florence Johnson of the New York Chapter of the American Red Cross, for meeting new nurses at the Port of New York and seeing them off for Kentucky; and to Mrs. Mason Barret, the President of the Colonial Dames of Kentucky, for making friends with two new nurses on the train, entertaining them to lunch and welcoming them to Kentucky.

---

"It all seems like a wonderful dream. I have been in the Grand Canyon; on the Isle of Madiera; on the top of the Swiss Mountains; on the Plains of Russia; in the Highlands of Scotland—all wonderful places—but no one of them was more interesting, charming or beautiful than your place at Wendover. And the road out through the hills and along the lovely rivers was grand. It was the closest thing to paradise that I have seen for many a day—and I shall be eternally grateful. . . . As to the work you and your organization are doing, I know of none better."

(Signed) GEORGE C. CUTLER,  
New York City.



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## DIRECTIONS FOR SHIPPING

We are constantly asked where to send supplies of clothing, food, toys, layettes, books, etc. These should always be addressed to the *Frontier Nursing Service* and sent either by parcel post to Hyden, Leslie County, Kentucky, or by freight or express to Hazard, Kentucky, with notice of shipment to Hyden.

If the donor wishes his particular supplies to go to a special center or to be used for a special purpose and will send a letter to that effect his wishes will be complied with. Otherwise, the supplies will be transported by wagon over the 700 square miles in several counties covered by the Frontier Nursing Service wherever the need for them is greatest.

Everything sent is needed and will be most gratefully received, and promptly acknowledged.

*Gifts of money should be sent to the treasurer,*

**MR. C. N. MANNING,**

Security Trust Company,

Lexington, Kentucky.



## FORM OF BEQUEST

For the convenience of those who wish to remember this institution in their wills, this form of bequest is suggested:

"I hereby devise the sum of .....  
dollars (or property properly described) to the Frontier Nursing Service, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Kentucky."

.....

.....

It is preferred that gifts be made without restriction, since the Trustees thereby have a broader latitude in making the best possible use of them. Of course, however, they are also welcome where a particular use is prescribed.

To facilitate the making of gifts of this sort, it is suggested that if they come by will there be added to the form shown above some such language as the following:

"This devise is to be used (here describe the purpose.)"

### Suggestions for special bequest:

- \$50,000 will endow a field of the work in perpetuity.
- \$12,000 will endow a Frontier hospital bed.
- \$ 5,000 will endow a baby's crib.
- \$10,000 will build and equip a Frontier center for the work of two nurses.
- \$15,000 additional will provide for the upkeep, insurance, repairs and depreciation on this center, *so that*
- \$25,000 will build and maintain in perpetuity a center.

A number of these centers have been given and equipped, and provision has been made for the endowment of three.

Any of the foregoing may be in the form of a memorial in such name as the donor may prescribe, as, for example, the Jane Grey Memorial Frontier Nurse, the Philip Sidney Frontier Hospital Bed, the Raleigh Center, the Baby Elizabeth Crib.

*Any sum of money may be left as a part of the Frontier Nursing Service Endowment Fund the income from which will be used for the work of the Service in the manner judged best by its Trustees, and the principal of which will carry the donor's name unless otherwise designated.*



## Statement of Ownership

Statement of the Ownership, Management, Circulation, etc., required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1922, of

### QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Published Quarterly at Lexington, Kentucky, for October, 1935.

State of Kentucky }  
County of Leslie } ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Mary Breckinridge, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Director of the Frontier Nursing Service, Inc., publishers of the Quarterly Bulletin and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1922, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form to wit:

(1) That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business manager are:

Publisher: Frontier Nursing Service, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky.

Editor: Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, Wendover, Ky.

Managing Editor: None.

Business Manager: None.

(2) That the owners are: The Frontier Nursing Service, Inc., the principal officers of which are: Mrs. S. Thruston Ballard, Chairman, Louisville, Kentucky; Miss Mattie Norton and Mr. E. S. Jouett, of Louisville, Ky., and Mrs. Charles S. Shoemaker, of Pittsburgh, Pa., vice-chairmen; Mr. C. N. Manning, Lexington, Ky., treasurer; Mrs. W. H. Coffman, Georgetown, Ky., and Mrs. William C. Goodloe, Lexington, Ky., secretaries; and Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, Wendover, Ky., director.

(3) That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: None.

(4) That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company, but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the corporation or person for whom such trustee is acting is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest, direct or indirect, in the said stock, bonds or other securities than as so stated by her.

FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE, Inc.,

By Mary Breckinridge, Director.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of September, 1935.

AGNES LEWIS, Notary Public,  
Leslie County, Kentucky.

My commission expires December 28, 1938.



## FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE, Inc.

Its motto:

“He shall gather the lambs with his arm  
and carry them in his bosom, and shall  
gently lead those that are with young.”

Its object:

“To safeguard the lives and health of mothers and children by providing and preparing trained nurse-midwives for rural areas in Kentucky and elsewhere, where there is inadequate medical service; to give skilled care to women in childbirth; to give nursing care to the sick of both sexes and all ages; to establish, own, maintain and operate hospitals, clinics, nursing centers, and midwifery training schools for graduate nurses; to educate the rural population in the laws of health, and parents in baby hygiene and child care; to provide expert social service; to obtain medical, dental and surgical services for those who need them at a price they can afford to pay; to ameliorate economic conditions inimical to health and growth, and to conduct research towards that end; to do any and all other things in any way incident to, or connected with, these objects, and, in pursuit of them, to cooperate with individuals and with organizations, whether private, state or federal; and through the fulfillment of these aims to advance the cause of health, social welfare and economic independence in rural districts with the help of their own leading citizens.”



FOOTER NUMBER SEVENTEEN

The full name of the person who has written this letter is given in the margin of the page.

To maintain the integrity of the work and to ensure that the results are not misinterpreted, it is necessary to state that the data presented in this report are the result of a preliminary investigation and are not intended to be taken as a final conclusion. The results are based on a limited number of observations and are subject to change as more data are collected. It is recommended that the results be used as a guide only and that further investigation be conducted before any final conclusions are drawn. The data presented in this report are the result of a preliminary investigation and are not intended to be taken as a final conclusion. The results are based on a limited number of observations and are subject to change as more data are collected. It is recommended that the results be used as a guide only and that further investigation be conducted before any final conclusions are drawn.