

## A Look Inside

Malcolm MacCoun: A New Era, A New Leader 65

### Candy-Striped Angels

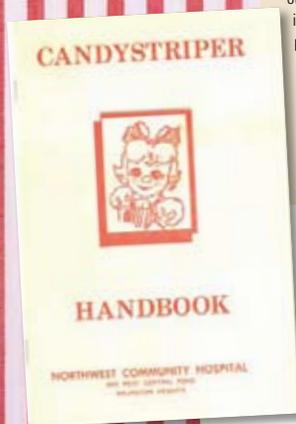


A 1967 Paddock Publications article called them “Angels of Mercy”: the many volunteers who gave generous help to hospitals like NCH. Among these “angels” were high school girls known as candy strippers, who wore red-and-white-striped pinafores. They delivered flowers, brought meals to patients, and assisted with their discharge. Sometimes they helped in the business office, staffed the front desk, or assisted in Food Services.

Connie Johnson Selsky, now director of Cardiac Surveillance and the Post-surgical Unit, was an NCH candy stripper on Saturdays during her high school years in Palatine. “We felt that we filled a true need at NCH, which is what volunteering is all about,” she says.

Her experience reinforced a budding interest in medicine, and she was awarded a scholarship from the Palatine Nurses Club for her education at Illinois Wesleyan. After graduation, she returned to NCH as a staff nurse on the Medical/Surgical units. “Volunteering gave me a strong appreciation for the work that nurses and other Hospital staff members do,” she says. “The whole intent is everyone working together for the good of the patients.” ■

**CLOCKWISE (from upper left):** Connie Johnson (now Connie Selsky), a candy stripper, in 1973; a group of candy strippers from the 1960s; a candy stripper working with a volunteer; teens in Thanksgiving dress working in Nutrition and Food Services; a candy stripper delivering flowers



## Northwest Community Hospital

Company anniversaries offer great opportunities for employee engagement. We always encourage our clients to put out the call for memorabilia. Pack rats are a corporate historian’s best friend.

Northwest Community Hospital gathered many gems for its 50th anniversary book this way. A particular treasure trove came from Connie Johnson Selsky, the nurse who directs the Cardiac Surveillance unit. Connie started at NCH as a teen volunteer. Some 40 years later she still had her uniform, handbook, patch, certificate, and a priceless photo of herself in uniform.

Our original outline didn’t include a page on candy strippers, but we made room for this one in order to showcase Connie’s splendid material—adding her reminiscences, of course.



**CORPORATE HISTORY.net**

*What is written is remembered.*

201-288-2036

[www.corporatehistory.net](http://www.corporatehistory.net)

[info@corporatehistory.net](mailto:info@corporatehistory.net)