



Sister Mary Annunciata Quigley, RN, was one of the most vital forces in Mercy's early growth and development. After graduating from St. Mary's School of Nursing in Lewiston in 1918 and taking her vows as a Sister of Mercy in 1922, she became the hospital's first administrator in 1934, serving until her death in 1969.

At her funeral, Sister Annunciata was eulogized as a woman of insight, empathy and understanding, and for her contagious, high-pitched laugh and the twinkle in her eye, her unique walk with head slightly bent to one side, her warmth and humanity. She was remembered first and foremost as a friend and someone who saw Mercy Hospital as her home; the patients and personnel as her family.

But Sister Annunciata also was a consummate professional who was recognized in the health care industry. She was a Fellow of the American College of Hospital Administrators (ACHA) and the Maine Regent of the ACHA's Council of Regents, and served as board chair of the Maine Hospital Association from 1951 to 1953.

Perhaps the most enduring legacy of her 35-year tenure as Mercy Hospital's administrator, however, is the glimpse she provides into her day-to-day life during three-and-a-half remarkable decades in the history of our hospital, our state and our nation. For Sister Annunciata kept a diary every year of her tenure, jotting down facts and observations that reveal what life at the hospital's helm was like.

## The Early Years: 1934 – 1940

### Leading Mercy Hospital into the Future

When Sister Annunciata steps into the leadership role at Queen's Hospital in 1934, it is a pivotal time in the history of our nation and the world. Americans struggle after the Great Depression and unemployment rises to 25%. President Franklin D. Roosevelt spearheads the Social Security Act of 1935, and the minimum wage is established. The American people gather around their radios to listen to the President's fireside chats and baseball games. Motion pictures are popular, and young people dance to the music of the "big bands."

On the world stage, Hitler is named Fuhrer, and World War II begins in 1939 when Germany invades Poland, and Britain and France declare war on Germany.

In Maine, Prohibition is repealed (1934), disastrous spring floods cause \$25 million in damage (1936) and, in 1938, the first hurricane to strike New England since 1869 makes it all the way to Maine.

In Portland, Sister Annunciata faces her own challenges. The greater Portland community's health care needs are exceeding the capabilities of the original Queen's Hospital facility. While Sister Annunciata's day-to-day focus is on the operational details of a busy hospital, she is also looking toward the future – and searching for support to build a bigger, better hospital to serve the community's needs.



August 25, 1938  
The second day of the lawn party came to a close at 11 p.m. when the affair was pronounced a grand success. The net result something well over \$1,100.00.

March 12, 1939  
Very busy day.  
4 patients discharged,  
4 patients admitted, 3 by ambulance.

November 11, 1938  
A beautiful day! Everyone who could went to Deering to a movie, "Captains Courageous" and cried all afternoon.

Sunday Telegram March 12, 1937  
Section D - Page Two  
**\$10,000 Charity Expenditure Shows On Queen's Hosp. Books Past Year**  
March 12, 1937  
During the past year, the hospital has spent \$10,000 on charity work. This amount is the largest ever spent by the hospital for such purposes. The money was used for the purchase of books, the purchase of a new X-ray machine, and the purchase of a new ambulance. The hospital also spent \$10,000 on the purchase of a new ambulance. The hospital also spent \$10,000 on the purchase of a new ambulance. The hospital also spent \$10,000 on the purchase of a new ambulance.

## The War Years: 1940 – 1945

### Meeting Wartime Challenges on the Home Front

The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the U.S. enters World War II, which dominates the American psyche for the next four years. The Manhattan Project begins in 1942 to coordinate American efforts to build the atomic bomb. The Allies invade Normandy on D-Day (June 6, 1944). Germany surrenders on May 7, 1945. The U.S. drops the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Japan surrenders on V-J Day (September 2, 1945).

During this period, FDR freezes prices, salaries and wages to prevent inflation. The GI Bill of Rights is passed, and the United Nations is established. The nation's first HMO (Kaiser) begins in California. Selman Waksman discovers streptomycin and coins the term "antibiotic." Doctors begin to use the pap test to detect cervical cancer, and oral penicillin is developed.

In Maine, FDR comes ashore in Rockland in 1941 after signing the Atlantic Charter with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Harry S. Truman becomes President. In 1944, a prisoner of war camp is established in Houlton to house German POWs. Mainers mourn along with the rest of the nation when FDR dies on April 12, 1945.

And in the midst of it all, Sister Annunciata oversees the launch of a \$300,000 fundraising campaign for a new Mercy Hospital and construction of the new 150-bed facility, which opens on March 18, 1943.



✓  
April 12, 1942  
Air raid practice for Portland.  
Doctors, nurses, aides, first aid all present...should have been some casualties. Nonc. however.

### AIR RAID INSTRUCTIONS

ISSUED TO.....  
The man who hands you this card is an  
**AIR RAID WARDEN**  
**BE CALM:- LIE FLAT ON YOUR BACK.**  
**IMPORTANT: Do whatever the warden tells you.**

✓  
December 8, 1941  
War declared between U.S. and Japan.

DESKAIDE ★ THE SILENT SECRETARY ★ 1941

NOVEMBER 1941	DECEMBER 1941	JANUARY 1942
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

8  
MONDAY

To DAY is the Birthday of

8:00  
9:00  
9:30  
10:00  
10:30  
11:00  
11:30  
12:00  
12:30

*Annunciata Conception*  
*War declared between U.S. and Japan*

Blessing and Dedication  
of the  
**Mercy Hospital**  
Thursday Afternoon, March Eighteenth  
Nineteen Hundred Forty-three, at three o'clock  
by  
His Excellency  
Reverend Joseph E. McCarthy, D. D.  
Bishop of Portland

... PROGRAM ...

al "March from Athalie" Mendelssohn  
Cornerstone and Blessing of Building  
Bishop McCarthy

"Bless This House" Brahe Miss Helen Ward  
Bishop McCarthy  
Blessing of Chapel

Discourse - Rev. Alphonse M. Schwitalla, S. J.  
President, Catholic Hospital Association  
United States and Canada

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

March 16, 1943  
Preparation for dedication—are  
we tired? But of course happy -

### Attacks on Hawaii Open Jap War On U.S. Formal Declaration Made After Sea And Air Blows

Tokyo, Monday, Dec. 8.—(AP)—Japan went to war against the United States and Great Britain today with air and sea attacks against Hawaii followed by a formal declaration of hostilities.  
Japanese imperial headquarters announced at 6 a. m. (4 p. m. Sunday, EST) that a state of war existed among these nations in the Western Pacific, as of dawn.  
Shortly afterwards Domei announced that "naval operations are progressing off Hawaii, with at least one Japanese aircraft carrier in action against Pearl Harbor," the American naval base in the islands.

## The Post-War Period: 1946 – 1949

### The Faith to Move Forward

The Marshall Plan is implemented and the first meeting of the U.N. takes place. President Truman ends racial segregation in the U.S. military in 1948, and South Africa institutionalizes apartheid in 1949. The Communist People's Republic of China is formally proclaimed and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) is established under Soviet rule (1949).

In the U.S., Benjamin Spock's childcare classic is published (1946), the Hollywood "Black List" is created by the House Un-American Activities Committee (1947), "Meet the Press" debuts on NBC (1947), and Milton Berle hosts the first telethon, which benefits cancer research, in 1949.

Closer to home, the Maine Turnpike opens from Kittery to South Portland in 1947.

Major forest fires sweep the state, destroying 200,000-plus acres, and more than 1,200 homes and cottages. In 1948, Margaret Chase Smith is elected U.S. Senator from Maine, becoming the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress.

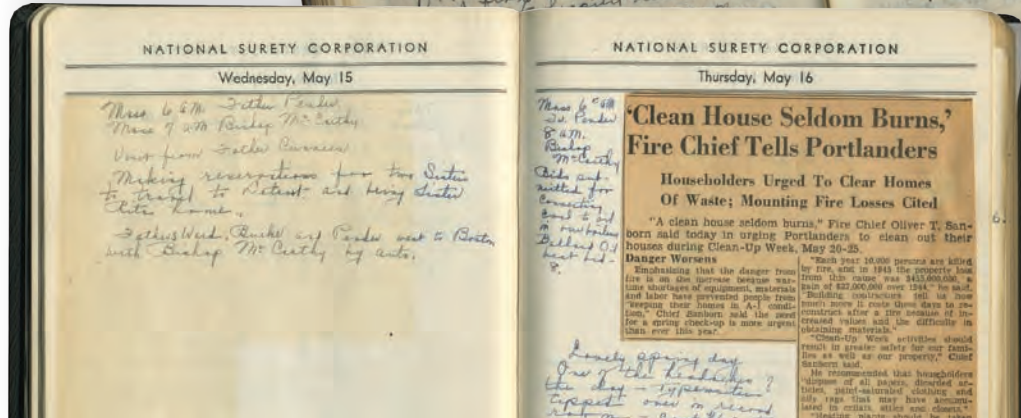
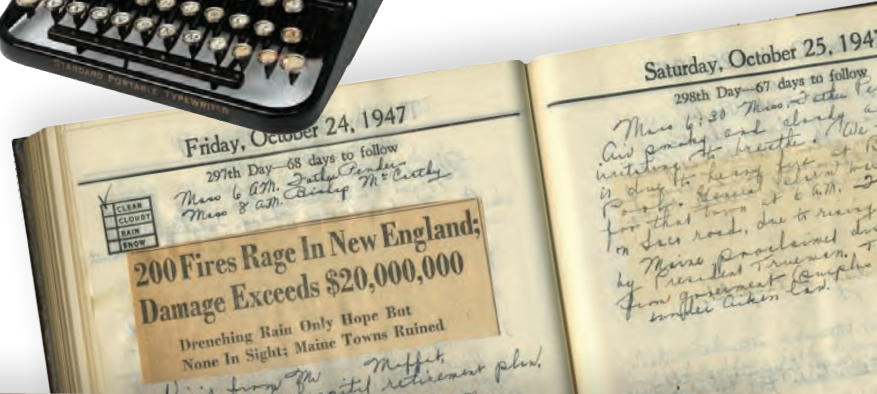


January 3, 1948  
Scare on oil scarcity.  
Randall & McAllister  
suggesting that we convert  
one boiler to coal.  
Mr. Tyler tells us not to  
worry - they will take  
care of us.

May 16, 1946  
Bids submitted for converting  
coal to oil in our boilers...  
Lovely spring day...One of  
the headaches of the day -  
typewriters tipped over in  
record room - cost \$60  
to repair.



October 25, 1947  
Air smoky and cloudy and irritating to  
breathe. We think it is due to heavy fire  
at Biddeford Pool. General alarm was  
sounded for that town at 6 a.m. Fire  
re-kindled on Saco road, due to rising  
wind. Maine proclaimed disaster unit  
by President Truman.



## The Fifties: 1950 – 1959

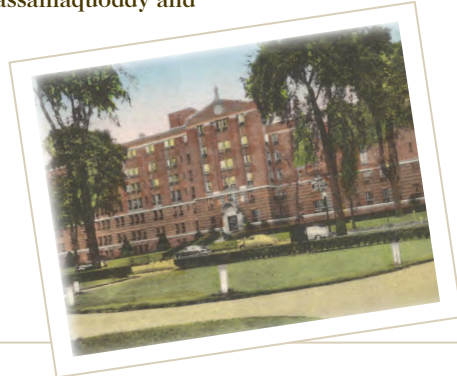
### A Decade of Growth

This decade began with the Korean War, Charles Schulz's first "Peanuts" comic strip, and the first successful kidney transplant. Other notable events on the world stage: Edmund Hilary reaches the summit of Mt. Everest (1953), Egypt takes control of the Suez Canal (1956), General Charles de Gaulle becomes French premier and Nikita Khrushchev becomes premier of the Soviet Union (1958).

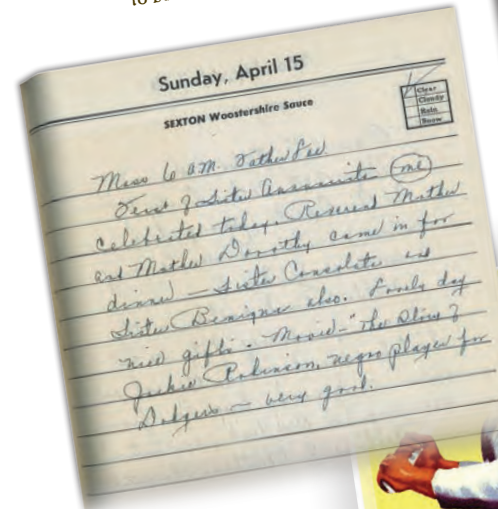
In the U.S., color television is introduced (1951), Dwight D. Eisenhower is inaugurated President (1953), the Supreme Court bans racial segregation in public schools (1954), Rosa Parks refuses to sit at the back of the bus (1955), and Alaska and Hawaii become states (1959).

In Maine, Senator Margaret Chase Smith denounces the tactics of the House Un-American Activities Committee (1950), Edmund S. Muskie is elected as the state's first Democratic governor in more than 20 years (1954), and the Maine Legislature passes a bill giving Passamaquoddy and Penobscot Indians the right to vote in state elections (1959).

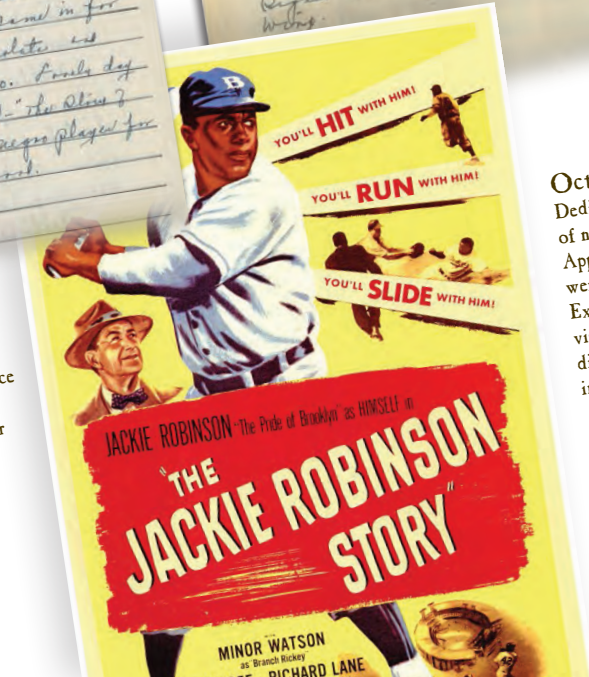
Sister Annunciata, meanwhile, oversees the opening of a new wing in 1952 – in addition to the countless other details of running a busy hospital.



January 25, 1950  
Meeting Board of Trustees and Hospital Board. Votes to build hospital wing, 6 stories, also to re-finance our mortgage in order to pay off present loan and acquire more funds for building. Signed contract to build new wing. >



April 15, 1956 ^  
Feast of Sister Annunciata (me) celebrated today...lovely day, nice gifts. Movie – "The Story of Jackie Robinson," Negro player for Dodgers – very good.



October 21, 1951  
Dedication and Blessing of new wing at 3 p.m. Approximately 2,200 people went through building. Ex-Governor Baxter also visited. About 30 men... did a fine piece of work in controlling crowd.

## The 1960's: 1960 – 1969

### A Turbulent Time

This decade began with 900 U.S. military advisors in South Vietnam, the election of John F. Kennedy as our first Catholic President, the erection of the Berlin Wall, and Alan B. Shepard, Jr. becoming the first American in space.

By the end of the decade, President Kennedy and his brother Robert have been assassinated, along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; racial violence explodes in Watts (Los Angeles), Detroit and other U.S. cities; the Tet offensive marks a turning point in the Vietnam war and the My Lai massacre makes headlines; and Apollo II astronauts take man's first walk on the moon.

In the medical world, the first liver transplant is performed; the U.S. Surgeon General affirms that cigarette smoking causes cancer; the first human heart transplant is performed; amniocentesis is developed; and the first in vitro fertilization of a human egg is performed in England.

Rachel Carson publishes "Silent Spring," the Beatles appear on the Ed Sullivan Show, and "60 Minutes" debuts on CBS.

Maine's Edmund S. Muskie is the 1968 Democratic nominee for vice president on a ticket headed by Hubert Humphrey. And Sister Annunciata enters the final decade of her tenure as Mercy Hospital's administrator. She passes away on July 28, 1969.



October 2, 1965  
Report on Survey for Med. Ed. Program for Mercy. Looks very fine and also promising. It will cost something but will be well worth it. Today we should be going forward - if we stand still we shall slip. >

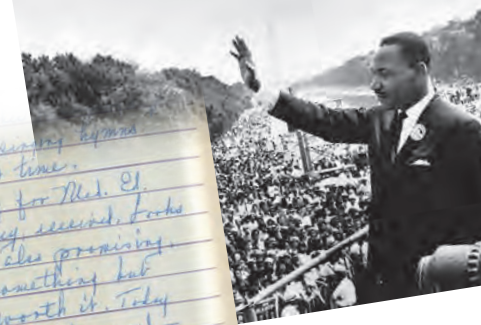
Mr. William who is  
Bay Factor for  
with his sister  
returned this P.M.  
House full of patients - almost  
had to put L.R. in the Bishop's  
room, but finally 2 semi-private  
patients moved together, liberating  
420.  
TO-DAY'S SPECIAL  
Clear Cloudy Rain Snow  
V

July 1, 1965 ^  
House full of patients - almost had to put L.R. in the Bishop's room, but finally 2 semi-private patients moved together, liberating 420.

T.V. busy with events of Robert F. Kennedy funeral details - everybody watching and feeling deeply grieved. Requiem Mass - St. Patrick's Cathedral, N.Y. - buried late this evening. the President.



June 8, 1968  
T.V. busy with events of Robert F. Kennedy funeral details - everybody watching and feeling deeply grieved. Requiem Mass - St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY - buried late this evening beside his brother, the President, in Arlington Cemetery. V





July 28, 1969

Sister Annunciata died at 9:15 a.m. today.  
Sister Johnette with her at time of death.  
All meetings canceled.