

# She Brings Cheer to Hospital Patients

By MARGE FLYNN

A Salvation Army "lassie" of some seventy young years has been a visitor at Manchester Memorial Hospital every Sunday afternoon for 40 years.

The weekly visitation to patients at the hospital and at the Vernon and Crestfield Convalescent hospitals is Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson's way of thanking God for her own good health. She has never been a hospital patient in her life.

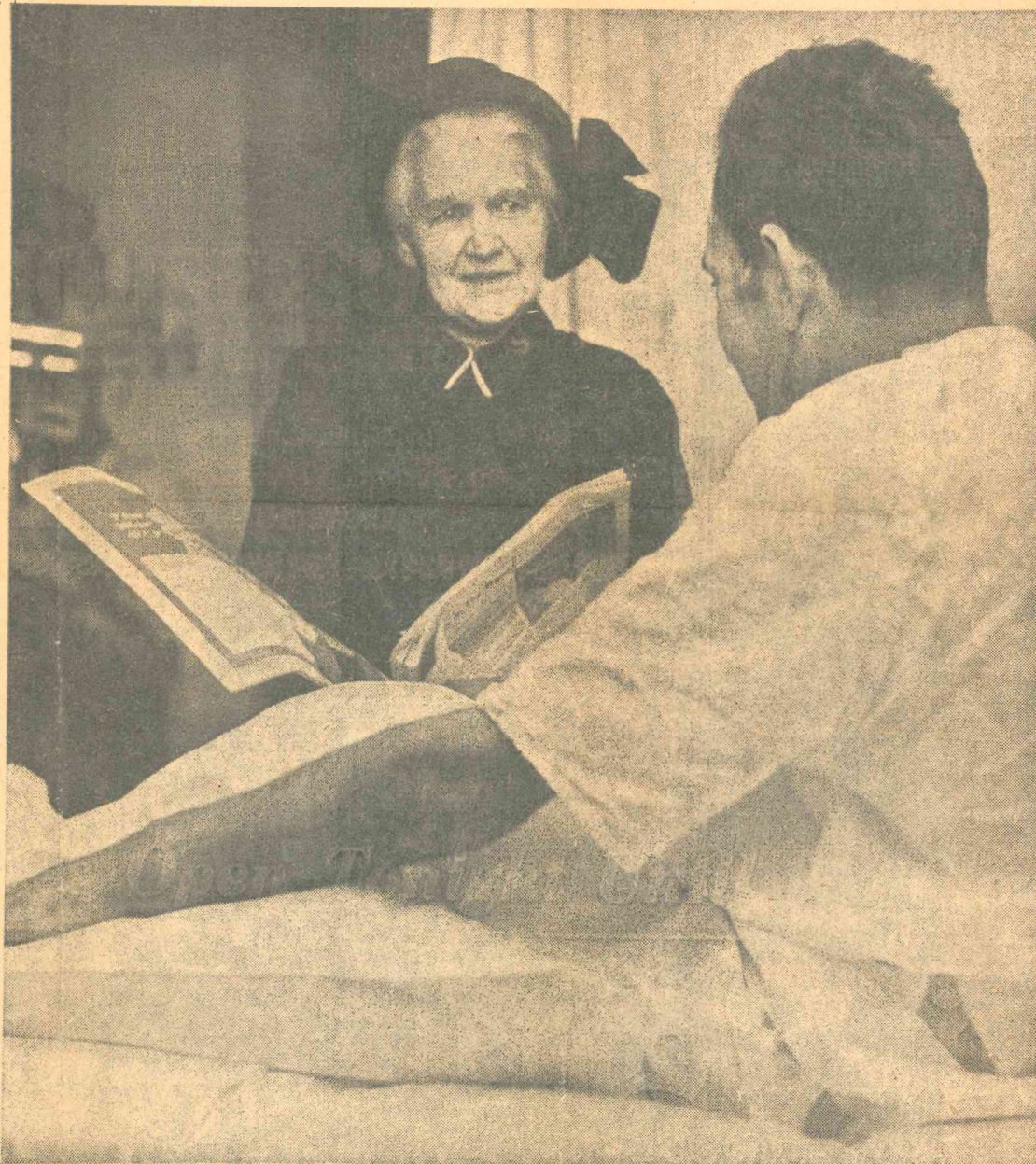
Mrs. Wilson, who lives at 95 Foster St., tours all the wards and rooms except the maternity and children's wards at the hospital. She has dispensed words of cheer and encouragement to untold numbers of patients over the years. She also distributes copies of the Salvation Army's War Cry to those who would like to read the paper.

Her "tour of duty" started soon after the hospital opened in 1919. Miss Jessie Reynolds, retired town welfare director, delivered the message that a patient from Wilimantic wanted someone from the Salvation Army to visit her.

Several members of the Salvation Army corps visited patients in a group and used to sing for them on Sunday afternoons when the hospital was a smaller institution.

"In those days, the officer in charge didn't own a car, so we walked to the hospital, and there were no sidewalks then," Mrs. Wilson reminisced.

Mrs. Wilson came to Manchester more than 50 years ago from County Armagh, Ireland. She formerly served as secretary of the Salvation Army corps for 22 years. She is also a Sunday School teacher and a member of the Ladies' Home League. Mrs. Wilson carried on the business of operating a grocery store on Spruce St. for many years after the death of her husband until 10 years ago.



With a sprightly step and a friendly greeting, Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson pauses at the bedside of Alex Golowczyk, 63 Union St., during her weekly rounds at Manchester Memorial Hospital. She gave a copy of the War Cry, Salvation Army paper, and her compassionate "God Bless You" greeting to the patient who is recovering from auto crash injuries, as she has done for thousands of patients during the past 40 years. (Herald Photo by Pinto).

## About Town

St. Mary's Guild will hold a Christmas party next Thursday, Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. including a potluck luncheon. There will also be a...

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Arthur M. Benton III, airman