



**LT. INEZ A. LELAND**

Commissioned 2d lieutenant, U. S. army nurses corps, May 6 at Fort George Wright, Wash., Miss Inez A. Leland is the daughter of Mrs. O. Leland of University Place. She is a graduate of Stadium high school and Tacoma General Hospital school of nursing, and attended the College of Puget Sound.

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**Model** —The picture of Lt. Inez A. Leland of Tacoma, an army nurse, was taken to illustrate the beige uniform, with russet brown accessories, that is one of the three dress uniforms worn by nurses in the army service.—Official photo by U. S. Army air forces.

## Party Combines Two Celebrations

Mrs. C. L. Drew entertained Tuesday at her home at a luncheon

FORT GEORGE HIGHT

# Review

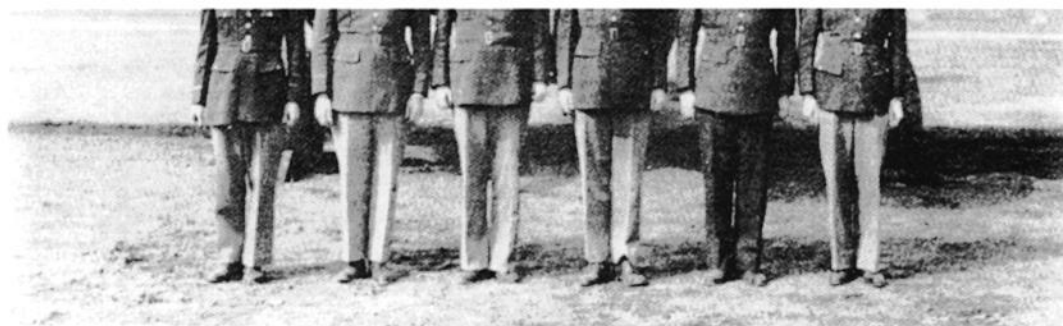
Volume 2.

NO. 12



# 818TH M. A. E. T. SQUADRON

Left to Right: Captain Frank, Major Dornberger, Captain Mills, Captain Sabatier, Captain Smith, Lieutenant Petrie.



First Row, left to right: Second Lieutenants Selma J. Kaye, Vivianna Cronin, Goldie Harvey, Marie T. Larriviere, Wilmo P. Cline, Sylvia C. Roth, Alice B. Beard.

Second Row, left to right: Second Lieutenants Eleanor M. Lofthouse, Alice R. Kriebel, Margaret M. O'Toole, Jane H. Zern, Yelma M. Scholl, Catherine M. Benigan, Dolores E. Rue, Wilhelmina M. Dunter, Inez Leland.

Third Row, left to right: Second Lieutenants Evelyn L. Chaychuk, Lola L. Bain, Cordelia T. White, Phyllis J. Heintz, Catherine E. Orlis, Anna M. Beneshunas, Josephine J. Crawford, Marjorie S. Payne, Sara K. Shum-pert.



*Selma Kaye/Vivianna Cronin*

Technical Sergeant Harry E. Leshar, Staff Sergeant Myron E. Sargent, Technicians Third Grade Charles E. Ennis, William T. Hart, Paul F. Henrich, Karl K. House, Michael J. Keating, Paul S. Keller, John A. Kliminski, John J. Kloch, Peter P. Kovach, Pierce F. Krouse, John S. Ludden, William R. Lyons, James R. McCaskie, Stanley W. Mavis, Kenneth J. Mead, Bertram Meister, Martin C. Otto, Howard C. Smith, Martin J. Weimar, Sergeants David J. Galbraith, Max S. Kruzansky, Norbert A. Notch, Joseph Sommers, Albert C. Watson, Technicians Fourth Grade John P. Dodge, Cary P. Kloss, Corporals James F. Bass, Gordon C. Hawkins,

Julius E. Keller, Arthur J. Kieselbach, Matthew J. Palazzolo, Henry C. Porret, Duncan B. Shanklin, David E. Yanni, Leckard D. Wagner, Jr., Technicians Fifth Grade George J. Brunner, Howard P. Lindaberry, Arthur E. West, Privates First Class Frank H. Burke, Jr., Richard S. Dawson, Michael Hudnick, Charles Kirl, Clarence Kronenberg, Dionysius A. Laskowski, Herman Levine, Herbert E. Morehead, Roy C. Robertson, Loyd F. Yater, Privates Arnold Bailey, Joel L. Boies, Houston Court, Seymour A. Finkelstein, Joseph J. Paniccia, R. J. Phillips, Jesse K. Reeves, Angelo J. Rotondi, Stonie A. Trinkaus, Thomas W. Trull, Vincent T. Vasquez.

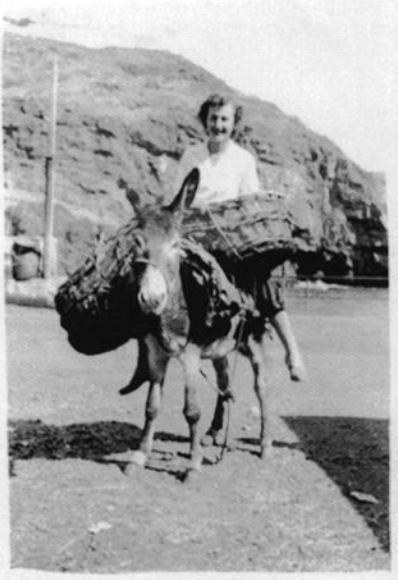




*In the Azores*



*transferring pts of Bermuda-*



*In the Azores*



*After D-Day*



*Paris*



*Scotland*





④  
A K-ration picnic  
under the wing. My  
Teck is sitting behind  
me. This used to be  
an old Luftwaffe base.



Newfoundland



Our Chateau at Orly  
Field, France



and they were absolutely part of their unit. I think particularly in the 315th the glider pilots were replacements. I arrived in September of 1944, and the 315th had been overseas damn near two years. We glider pilots were sort of orphans, probably due to the fact that the 315th never towed gliders in combat.

2nd Lieutenant Inez A. Leland

818th Medical Aero Evacuation Squadron

We had been making trips to Normandy and bringing back wounded for over a month when Vivianna Cronin got word that her little brother, who had rheumatic fever, was becoming critically ill. I suggested that she ask Major Dornberger if she might be sent on an evacuation flight home to visit with him for a while. The major managed to make arrangements and, though worried, Viv was delighted. We girls had a long shopping list of things that we needed from the States and she happily promised to fill it.

Rather than seeing her young brother again, she arrived in time for his funeral. She did spend time with her parents and sister, and managed to call my mother and had a long talk with my family.

I was reclining on her bed one day when Alice Krieble came up to the room. I could tell by the look on her face that something was terribly wrong. I asked, "It's mama, isn't it, Krieble?" She shook her head no, and then I asked if it was Viv. Treble then uttered that Viv's plane had crashed in Scotland, hitting four houses and that everybody on board had been killed.

My heart just sank. What could we do? Our hearts were so heavy. Major Dornberger called the entire squadron together and explained that we would have to go on flying no matter what happened.

Viv's boyfriend, Gene, was there. He was a great comfort to many of us that had been left behind and his commiseration was reciprocated. I believe that God is good and that he had been with us all this time. We thanked Him that some day we would see our beloved Vivianna again.

The funeral was one of the most difficult I have ever attended. There were three services, Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish. We all had to stand at attention and, at the end of the third, they played "Taps." It was almost more

than I could bear as we were not allowed to move a finger to wipe our tears or blow our noses.

Right after Viv's death I got in touch with her mother. She was such a dear lady and said that things were very hard for her, but they were making it and she was sure that there was a reason that things happened the way they did. However, just a few months later I got word that Viv's father died from a heart attack. It was all so sad - the woman had lost three of her family in such a short time. I mailed the medal we received from the French military at our reunion in Virginia to her sister, Agnestelle Lennon. At times such as these we must gather our strength and realize that nothing is out of God's control, and we must trust Him more and more as life goes on.







PETERSON STUDIO - TACOMA

Okina wa



Okinawa



Sunday School →



...dren to a new life in a strange community. It was a learning experience for all, especially for Grace, as she realized her childhood dream of becoming a teacher — and loved it! The family returned to Tacoma the following spring, and Robert and Grace resumed their academic program in summer and night classes while teaching, Robert in Wilkeson and then both in the Clover Park School District.

In the meantime their love for children encompassed yet another area when in 1955 they became a foster family, caring at various times for seven children.

A major decision for change was made in 1963 when Grace accepted a position as Reading Consultant in a Los Angeles, California, County School District. Permission was granted to take the youngest of the foster children, four year old Darline, with them, and arrangements were made for her subsequent adoption. Robert did substitute teaching for three years before accepting a maintenance position with the City of Los Angeles, from which he retired in 1980. Grace retired in 1983.

Throughout all these years Grace was not only a parent and teacher, but also an organization person, belonging to and holding offices in American Association of University Women, Phi Delta Gamma, Lioness Club, Elks Ladies, and the Catholic Church. Robert belonged to and held offices in Lions and Elks.

Robert enjoys his garden, his dog, and model railroading. Grace reads widely, is interested in genealogy, and carries on a wide correspondence with family (including ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren) and friends.

They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary 21 June 1987 and returned in April 1989 to make Tacoma their home after 26 years of California living. *submitted by Grace Gius.*

## The Glass Family

On 21 October 1989 Cottesmore Nursing Home celebrated its 20th anniversary.



The Glass Family

This property, on which Cottesmore is situated, had been an old military reservation. On 4 June 1920 James G. Bell of North 27th Street in Tacoma, purchased the 19 acres from the government and received a letter signed by President Woodrow Wilson releasing the property. The back acre was sold to the City of Tacoma on which they built the tower to extend electrical cables across the Narrows.

In 1947 Eugene and Inez Glass obtained the property from Mr. Bell's son. They settled in this area after serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. Manual and Anne Leonardo had encouraged the Glasses to buy property close to them, Anne and Inez were sisters.

In this beautiful wooded area son John was born, who is in management at the Home and Secretary of the Corporation. John's wife, Judy, is on staff serving as Infection Control Nurse. Later Kathleen was born, whose husband is also working at Cottesmore in Administration and is currently serving as Vice President. Son Robert, the last to be born, is also on the board. Robert and his wife, Sharonjoy, own and operate the Haven of Rest Mortuary.

When the family transferred to California and then overseas, the house and a portion of the land, five acres, was sold. John was able to purchase back two and one-half acres.

While still living in Turkey, Gene's health was not good and Inez realized she would have to return to work in the nursing field. Upon returning to the States in 1958 she worked at Abilene House and Orchard Park Nursing facility and had a great desire to care for the elderly.

Gene passed away in 1963 and the desire for a Christian home became a real concern for her. The property was available.

With the children all in accord to use the property for a nursing home and with the help of family and friends, we incorporated. George Reha agreed to sell the shares and 20 charter members put in funds, Inez as President, George Reha as Treasurer, and Virgil Umbarger as Secretary. It seemed like an impossible task and the pressure didn't let up. Over 200 stock and bond holders helped raise the needed money.

With George Hartwick as our designer and James Kirkebo as contractor we built the first phase of the Nursing Home — 52 beds. The second patient to enter the home was Jim Kirkebo's mother-in-law, Maudie Studebaker.

In 1971 we added 41 beds and again in 1973 we increased by 12 more beds.

In 1988 we felt a need for additional services so a cafeteria for staff, families, and the public was constructed with an adjoining area for Day Care patients and space for four Respite Care, short stay patients.

The Home was named Cottesmore after the Royal Air Force Base in England where Gene and Inez and friend Vivianne Cronin were stationed. Lt. Cronin was killed in action during the War and Lt. Colonel Gene Glass died in 1963 — so the name is a memorial to both of them.

The Leland Wing is also named as a memorial to Inez's family who helped so much in the building of the home.

With God's help — one of the most excellent, caring staffs in the world and a fine Board of Directors — namely, Inez, John, Robert Glass, Lyn Brock (daughter of Anne Leonardo, Anne's daughter, Camille Curry, serves as our O.T. Consultant), Ed Edmiston, Dr. and Mrs. Guy Boswell, Dr. Stewart, Don Henneberg — we shall continue to persevere in serving the Gig Harbor area doing the best we can to care for some of God's most chosen people.

Our dear Norwegian family shared this message with us:

**KJEMP FOR ALT  
HVA DU HAR KJART**

"Fight for all  
you hold dear to your heart."

*submitted by The Glass Family*

## Henry and Mary (Connor) Marthaller

My father, Henry "Heinie" Anthony Marthaller (1910-1972) was born in Portland, Oregon, to Henry Michael Marthaller (1866-1947 Speier, Beresan District, Russia) and Katherine Elizabeth Sautner (1872-1939, Rosental, Crimea, Russia). His parents came on the *AMSTERDAM* 7 May 1894 to this country and went to Hoven, South Dakota. There are only two surviving sister's of the thirteen children.

Heinie came to Tacoma around 1930. He worked at Gregory's Furniture Factory where he met my mother, Mary "Molly" Hempton Connor, daughter of Duncan Connor and Annie



Mary "Mollie" Connor and Henry A. Marthaller,  
Sept. 4 1937

McFadyen. They were married at the old Sacred Heart Church on McKinley Avenue.



Back Row: Phillip Joseph, Raphael Bruce, Francis Christopher, Michael Anthony. Front Row: Mary Louise, Mollie, James Henry, Elizabeth Josephine, Katherine Anne. Background: Melinda (Howard) Marthaller

After the marriage Heinie went to work at Harmon's Furniture Factory until he went to work for Acme Door in Hoquiam in 1947. In 1956 the family moved to Toledo, Oregon, where Heinie went to work for Georgia-Pacific Paper Mill as superintendent. Molly worked at the Coast Cleaners in Newport, Oregon.

There are eight children and three foster children.

Katherine Ann (1938) married Richard A. Gleason and has five children: Carl Anthony (1960), Jeffrey Allen (1962), Steven Michael (1962), Christopher Richard (1964) and Katherine Elizabeth (1966).

Elizabeth Josephine "Betty" (1940) married 1) Gaylord McMullen and has five children: Gloria Ann (1960), Sandra Elaine (1960), Gregory Allen (1961), David Bruce (1963) and Stuart Michael (1968). There are four grandchildren. 2) married John Robinson.

James Henry (1943) married Claudia Cagle and had three children: Kimberly Rae (1963), Timothy James (1965) and Matthew Christopher (1968). There are five grandchildren. 2) married a second time: divorced.

Phillip Joseph (1945) married Susan Elaine Nelson and adopted two daughters: Jennifer Anne (1978) and Melinda Marie (1980).

Mary Louise (1946) married Phillip Kuehn and has two sons: Ty Allen (1968) and Evan Michael (1969).



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**NEW NURSING HOME PLANNED WEST OF NARROWS**  
*Cottesmore to Rise on 14-Acre Site*

## New Nursing Home to Be Ready in Fall

The first phase of Cottesmore Nursing Home, on John Reid Road, near the west end of the Narrows Bridge, will be completed this fall, according to Inez Glass, of Tacoma, president of the owning corporation which bears the same name as the nursing home.

The first phase will provide 50 beds and cost an estimated \$600,000 for land, buildings and equipment. The owners plan to expand later on the 14-acre site, bringing the total to \$750,000.

Kirkebo Construction Co. is the general contractor, and George Hartwick, of Tacoma, the building designer. The contract calls for completion in 182 days.

# THE COTTESMORE STORY

Every success story begins with a dream and a vision. This is such a story.

Inez Leland was born in University Place in Tacoma, Washington, the youngest of 15 children. Relatives agreed she was born with the knack of caregiving which only bloomed as she grew older. She became a military nurse and when WWII broke out was stationed at Cottesmore Royal Air Force Base near Cambridge, England. (It was from this experience that she derived the name for her skilled nursing facility in Gig Harbor.) While in England, Inez shared her quarters with her dear friend, Vivianne Cronan. Vivianne was dating a young captain named Eugene Glass. She received notice that her brother was ill with rheumatic fever back in the states, so she arranged for a transatlantic flight back home with a load of patients to see him. She got home in time for his funeral. Upon her return to England, Vivianne's plane crashed in Scotland killing all aboard. Gene was distraught with the news as was Inez. They consoled each other and eventually fell in love. The war ended and in 1946 Inez married Gene Glass. The couple lived in Virginia where Gene attended school, but soon moved to Tacoma. Inez had a sister who owned some property in Gig Harbor. The property on which Cottesmore is situated had been an old military reservation. James G. Bell of Tacoma purchased the 19 acres from the government and received a letter signed by Woodrow Wilson releasing the property. The back acre was sold to the City of Tacoma on which they built a tower to extend electrical cables across the Narrows. In 1947 Inez and Gene bought the property from Mr. Bell's son. The couple were blessed with three children. John, Kathy and Bob. Gene's military career took the family to many interesting places-Okinawa in 1953, Georgia in 1955 and Turkey in 1956. Upon their return to Tacoma the growing family needed more income. Inez knew she had to take a job. She fell back on her training as a nurse and soon realized that her true calling was caregiving. Inez took a job at The Abeline House as a nurse on the night shift so that she could be with her children during the day. It was hard work but she loved it. Shortly thereafter, Gene passed away. Devastated, but determined, Inez took a job at Orchard Park in Tacoma to pay the bills but she had always felt strongly that the peninsula needed a quality nursing home. It was then that she started planning Cottesmore in her mind. With some of the money she received when Gene died, Inez started having plans drawn up for a skilled nursing facility. She decided that if she could get the church to fund it as a non-profit project she could realize her dream. The pastor took her plans to the district. Inez waited to hear good news, unfortunately it never came. The district already had their budget in place and could not take on any more. The disappointed pastor talked with a member of the congregation named George Reha. He told him, "you need to help that girl with her concern." George thought about it and contacted Inez. "If you will hire my nephew, Johnny Reha, I will help you." he said. Inez agreed. Johnny was with the law firm of Eisenhower (yes, Dwight's brother) and Carlson which really came in handy for Inez. George was a true salesman. He started selling stocks and bonds to whomever would buy them and slowly the project began. Inez remembers that one month the bills came to \$61 thousand and they had only raised \$5 thousand that month. They all sat grimly at the table. What could they do? They started calling everyone they knew. Inez's sister put in money and George's sister put in \$5 thousand. Inez offered to put her house and car up for collateral and bit by bit they met their goal. That was the only time they had to scrimp. From that night forward, everything came together like clockwork. God heard their prayers.

Cottesmore opened in 1969 with what is now the west wing. It was licensed for 52 beds. Inez could see a real need in the community so she took on a second corporation called "His Continuing Care Guild". It was through this corporation she was able to raise money for folks in financial straights and was able to decertify from Government programs. Since that time, Cottesmore has been remodeled four times and is licensed to 104 beds and 4 respite.

Inez is 100% Norwegian and in 1982, the activities director for Cottesmore, Barbara Botnen decided to start Scandia Day to honor Inez and the many Scandinavian descendents in the peninsula area. This annual May tradition remains today with authentic dance, food and music.

Inez believed in quality care, Christian ethics and a loving environment. She knew she wanted to sell her beloved Cottesmore to a company with those same beliefs. This was a tall order. Many companies made offers but in 1996, the corporation sold Cottesmore to Life Care Centers Of America. Inez is still very much involved with Cottesmore. She heads up the volunteer program and comes many times a week to bring Christian music, prayer and joy to many. Many articles, flyers and even books have been written about the incredible story of Inez and her Cottesmore but none say it as well as a quote from Margaret Jensen's "A Nail in a Sure Place". In her book she writes "In a world where news depicts the plight of the elderly, highlighting stories of neglect and abuse it is a miracle to see what one woman's dream can do."



18

# National Nursing Week Celebrated At Cottesmore Nursing Home

"We care" is the national theme for nursing homes. "We care about the vital role quality nursing homes play in each community; about the million persons living in nursing homes; about their happiness and their well being; about the standards of care they receive."

This week, May 12-19, is National Nursing Home Week and residents of the Gig Harbor-Tacoma area will have a chance to see how the nursing homes in the area are caring for their residents.

The Cottesmore Nursing

Home in the Gig Harbor area, 2909-14 Avenue N.W., will have an open house for the public on Saturday, May 18, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

"We care . . . we want the community to know this and we want them to participate by showing they care too," states Mrs. Inez Glass, director of the nursing home.

"There are joys, benefits and rewards in living in a quality nursing home, living a full and fulfilling life," she continues.

Some of the aspects of the Cottesmore Nursing Home that enables one to lead a rich and fulfilling life are the availability of church services during the week, games

such as wheelchair basketball and kickball and social events such as popcorn parties, cookie baking and movies.

The Cottesmoe Nursing Home is the home for the oldest living graduate nurse from Tacoma General Hospital, Mrs. Josephine Nicolai. She graduated in the

class of 1903 and celebrating her 93rd birthday this year.

The home's oldest member is Jacob Ralph Nachant is 101. Close behind him is Claudia Larson, 100, and McEvers, 99 years old.

A tour of the home will be available.



Mrs. Elsie Roby and Mrs. Inez Glass, activity director and director of the Cottesmore Nursing Home, are opening the door to the public on Saturday, May 18, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. for a guided tour during National Nursing Home Week.

TNT 5-15-74



COMMUNITY SUPPORT is growing for the effort by Cottesmore Nursing home to purchase a wheelchair van for use by its residents and any other wheelchair-bound

Peninsulans. Showing their support are (from left) Dick Boyles, Milt Boyd, Inez Glass, Ruth Bogue and Barbara Botnen. (Gateway Photo)

# Music benefit proceeds will buy Cottesmore van

Cottesmore Nursing Home is sponsoring a fundraiser on March 25 to buy a van to transport wheelchair-bound residents.

The musical night, beginning at 7:30 p.m., will feature Peninsula and Tacoma-area entertainers. The event will be at Peninsula High School in the Milt Boyd Performing Arts Building.

Kevin Huber, coordinator of Tacoma's Singing Christmas tree, is handling arrangements for the benefit show. Local entertainers Connie Fenton, Jim Valley and the Wicklines will be performing. Other entertainers are still being lined up.

Dick Boyles, owner of Dick Boyles' Chevrolet, has made arrangements to purchase the specially equipped van for the Cottesmore group.

"We're getting enthused about the possibility of getting a van so wheelchair patients at Cottesmore or the community can have more opportunity for outside activities," said Inez Glass, Cottesmore administrator.

to a non-profit corporation called "His Continuing Care Guild." This enables donations to be tax deductible.

Local service groups have expressed interest in making donations for the wheelchair van.

Tickets for the March 25 musical night will be on sale at Mostly Books, Morford's Hallmark Shop in Point Fosdick Square, Goodnews Records and Book Center in Tacoma. Donations of \$5 and \$7.50 will be asked.

## TCC winter pops on March 9

The Tacoma Community College concert choir, Clef Dwellers and Jazz ensemble will present a free "Pops Concert" March 9, at Tacoma Community College.

The 8 p.m. program planned for the college theater, Building 3, will in-

clude six selections by the Concert Choir, directed by Gene Nelson. The Clef Dwellers, a music and dance ensemble, will present a complete selection of all-time favorites and upbeat modern numbers.

For information call 756-5060.

## TCC auditions set March 16, 17

Auditions will be held March 16 and 17 for roles in the upcoming Tacoma Community College musical production of "Shenandoah".

Roles are available for 17 males, two females and a total of 12 men and women needed for the chorus. Accord-

technical persons, costumers, makeup artists and house managers are also needed.

All members of the public are invited to audition at 7 p.m. both days in Building 7, Room 16 on the TCC cam-

## Glass's sharp memory is filled with stories

Many interesting people and activities have happened during the 25 years Cottesmore Nursing Home has been open.

One of the early residents of Cottesmore was Jane Black, Annette Weyerhaeuser's mother.

Black's grandfather was invited to the theater with Abraham Lincoln, said Inez Glass.

Cottesmore now has Black's bible.

Glass remembers one woman, Carolyn, who sang "You are my sunshine," finishing with "So please empty your ashtray." Carolyn had Alzheimer's and had "parrot talk," said Glass.

Parrot talk is when the patient repeats a word or phrase over and over again.

Before the home had a security unit, a wing with controlled doors and a code to open the doors, patients would wander off.

Elmer, an Alzheimer's patient, took a walk one evening and didn't make it home.

After searching for Elmer for many hours, the volunteers and the search and rescue team found him at the bottom of the cliff over looking the Tacoma Narrows.

"When he was pulled to the top of the cliff," Glass said, "he looked at me and said, 'Imagine meeting you here.' Elmer was fine, minus a shoe and a few scratches."

The residents are "full of cute, little things to say," Glass said fondly. She knows many of the residents by name and is invited to birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other special events for patients.

Another resident of the home, Ruthie, had a bit of a crush on Ray, the piano player.

She went up to him one day and said, "Ray, I like you." Ray answered, "Well, I kinda like you too." So Ruthie told him they should get married. Ray laughed and asked her what they would do with his wife.

"Hang her," said Ruthie, remembers Glass.

The memories of Cottesmore will follow Glass through life.

"I'll miss the families and the relatives," she said.

"We have had a wonderful relationship with the Gig Harbor area," Glass said.

"It has been 25 interesting years."

— by Sarah Wehren

# For Inez Glass, retiring doesn't mean saying goodbye

by Sarah Wehren  
Gateway staff

Inez Glass has known since she was a little girl that she would like to take care of people.

"I told my brothers and sisters I would care for them," she remembers.

In her life she has taken care of her brothers and sisters and many others.

Glass owns and operates the Cottesmore Nursing Home in Gig Harbor. She has worked at Cottesmore for 26 years and plans to retire in late September.

After so many years of service to the elderly and the Gig Harbor community, Glass finds herself deciding to retire. She says she

isn't completely retiring, but more of a semi-retirement.

"I don't really want to sell or retire," said Glass, "but I know it is the best thing."

Glass has decided to sell Cottesmore, but to whom has not been decided and the contract has not been signed.

"We can't expect any changes until the last of September," she explained.

Glass won't be completely leaving Cottesmore. She plans to work with His Continuing Care, a corporation designed to find funds for residents who have exhausted their money for nursing care.

His Continuing Care is a not-for profit corporation at Cottesmore.

"His Continuing Care Guild is a good program, we just need to concentrate," explained Glass, "it is a real asset to the community." Glass' family has been a supportive force throughout her life. Her oldest son, John, works in management at the home and is secretary of the corporation.

John's wife, Judy, is the infection control nurse and Glass's son-in-law works in administration and is currently vice-president. He is married to Kathleen, Glass's second child.

Glass' third child, Robert, owns Haven of Rest Mortuary and also serves on the board.

She has nine grandchildren

See Glass, Page 2B



Gateway photo/Scott Turner

Inez Glass, second from right, will be missed by Cottesmore staff members when she retires this summer after 26 years as owner of the Gig Harbor nursing care center.

## COVER

## Glass

■ From Page 1B

who also have supported and helped with the home.

"The important thing isn't me, it is the people who care for other people," she said.

Yet, it is easy to see that she is "the important thing."

Glass has a brisk walk, and a kind word for everyone she meets.

The residents of Cottesmore smile and reach out to Glass as she walks by and stops to chat and meet with them.

She was invited to Geri and John Cox's 54th anniversary last Wednesday (July 5). The couple had a cake and Geri wore a lei around her neck.

"She is a hard lady to beat," John Cox said of Glass.

"Bless you, bless you," Glass said softly to John as she patted him on the back.

"Seeing anniversaries is exciting," said Glass with a quiet smile.

The residents of Cottesmore seem to smile a little more when Glass enters, watching closely as she moves through the room.

Glass remembers the names of families who come in to visit with relatives, and is always willing to say hello.

Since junior high, Glass has wanted to be a nurse. She attended the University of Puget Sound for a year and then transferred to Tacoma General Hospital.

While in training for her degree, World War II broke out and she joined the Army. Glass received her wings after she graduated from flight nurse school in Louisville, Ky.

Glass was stationed overseas in England at Spanmore and then transferred to Cottesmore Royal Air Force Base.

She was there when D-Day arrived.

"I had German measles and had to go to a little field hospital," Glass said.

"I remember thinking, 'What is that drone?'" she said, "It was the airplanes."

After recovering from the measles, Glass and other flight nurses began to follow the troops into Normandy and through

France.

"I was 21 years old and it was exciting," Glass remembered.

Glass flew trans-Atlantic flights to New York City and Miami. She also flew across the English channel to care for wounded soldiers.

"We would go to these little base hospitals. They were so cute and everyone tried to brighten them up," Glass said.

"There was a mixture of excitement and of sorrow," she said about her time in the war.

During the war, she met her future husband, Lt. Colonel Eugene Glass. Gene and Inez were married in Lynchburg, Va. in 1946.

The newlyweds moved to the Northwest in 1947 and bought a

house in Gig Harbor. They also bought 19 acres on 29th Street NW.

She raised three children, John, Kathleen, and Robert, and a step-daughter in Gig Harbor.

Later Gene was stationed in Turkey and the family moved there. The family enjoyed the time spent in Turkey, but returned to Tacoma, "home for me," said Glass.

While in Turkey she began to learn about nursing homes and what it takes to open a facility. Her interest in care for the elderly began during this time.

In 1958, the family moved back to the states, Inez worked at Abilene House and Orchard Park Nursing Home.

Gene Glass died in 1963 and the plans for opening a home became more important to Inez Glass.

With the support of family and friends, Glass began to plan the facility. The family had the land — those 19 acres bought back in 1947.

"My family was very supportive, the kids were great," said Glass.

George Reha, a friend, agreed to sell shares and 20 charter

members also bought in to the corporation.

Glass became president, Reha was treasurer and another friend, Virgil Umbarger, became secretary. The three of them formed the first executives of Cottesmore Nursing Home.

The first phase of the home had 52 beds. In 1971, the home added 41 more beds, and now Cottesmore has 108 beds for the elderly.

The nursing home is named in memorial for Gene Glass and friend Vivianne Cronin. The three friends were stationed at Cottesmore Royal Air Force Base during the war.

Lt. Cronin was killed in action on a return flight from the United States. She had been Glass's roommate.

Cottesmore has grown to hold a cafeteria, a small gift store, a day care for children and a security area for Alzheimer's patients.

Inez Glass has made a circle in her life. Beginning in Tacoma, traveling to England and Turkey, finally landing at "home," as she calls Gig Harbor.

She now moves on to another stage of her life, but plans to do it with the care and love she gives to all humans.



# Gateway

SINCE 1917  
THE PENINSULA

**ALL DAY K:** The Peninsula School District plans to open all-day kindergarten for each of its eight elementary schools for the next school year/12A

**HOME HEARTBREAKER:** Gig Harbor High School boys basketball team loses their first game this season in a 48-46 nail biter against Central Kitsap/Sports

JANUARY 25, 2006 ▶ VOLUME LXXXIV, NUMBER 4 ▶ 5 SECTIONS, 78 PAGES ▶ SERVING GIG HARBOR AND THE KEY PENINSULA



Gateway photo/Lee Giles

University Place resident Inez Glass founded Cottesmore of Life Care center, but spends her days now in a house she and her late husband built in 1942.

## Desire to help elderly led to Cottesmore's current facility

### Inez Glass had a vision for extensive retirement care

MICHELLE ROGERS-MOORE  
*of the Gateway*

**W**hat will soon become one of Gig Harbor's most extensive retirement communities began with the idea of one woman. Inez Glass of University Place had inclinations toward owning a nursing home and retirement community from the age of 5.

Being the youngest in a household of nine children, Glass said she remembered wanting her older sister to stay at home instead of move away after being married. Glass told her sister if she remained at home, she would take care of her. This desire to help people "started when I was very young," Glass said. Glass had yet to realize it was her calling in life to open a nursing home, so in the meantime she spent her days as a nurse. She began as a nurse for the U.S. Army, which is how she met her late husband, Gene, and later worked as a nurse at Abilene House in University Place. At that time, Abilene was a nursing home (it is now a hospice center) and Glass said she thoroughly enjoyed tending to the approximately 50

patients in the home. "I just loved working with the old people," she said. After some time, Glass said the practical nurse at Abilene asked her, "Why don't you just build a (nursing) home?" Glass, in her early 40s at the time, said this thought continued to run through her mind. With the support of a few siblings and her children, Glass finally began the journey of what later became Cottesmore of Life Care center. With what she deemed a "wonderful" architect and contractor behind her, Glass drew up the plans for the future nursing home. "Then it was a matter of financing," she said. Glass and her husband had purchased the land that Cottesmore now occupies several

For more stories on people and places that make the Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas unique, please see the People, Pride & Progress special section in today's Gateway.

years earlier when they moved from the East Coast to Gig Harbor to care for Glass's sister during a time of need, she said. They resided on the property for a short time, and then built their home in University Place in 1942 and made it their permanent residence. They kept their Gig Harbor property, however, which meant finding a place for the nursing home was not a problem. At that time, Glass also owned a house on Fox Island and a house near the ocean. "But that wasn't enough," Glass said, which surprised her because she thought those properties would offer enough collateral to get the financing she needed.

# Glass: Saw need for assisted-living center

from page 1A

"Then I decided maybe I'd go with the church. Maybe that's what the Lord want(ed)," she said.

Glass then approached the pastor at the Neighborhood Church in University Place, but was again declined.

However, it was at the church that she met a businessman, George Reha. He agreed that if Glass would use his son as her attorney on the project, he would help her get financing and build the nursing home.

"It was just amazing," Glass said of how it finally worked out.

While she and Reha butted heads at times, she said, together they successfully opened the nursing home in 1969.

When trying to decide on a name, Glass said she and her sister brainstormed for quite some time. At some point, Glass said he remembered the name of a royal air force base she was stationed at during her time in the army where she and her husband met. It was named Cottesmore. The two women felt that was a good name for the nursing home, she said, and it stuck.

Recalling the process of building the center, Glass said she remembers the method she used

to clear the land. Her children would shimmy up a tree and tie a rope to it, while the other end was tied to a tractor.

Laughing, Glass said she suspects that's not how the land was cleared for the new Harbor Place.

One personal challenge Glass said she faced when opening the nursing home was deciding whether to be an administrator or a nurse, as she couldn't do both. She decided to work as an administrator full time, but kept her hand in the nursing aspect as much as possible.

During her three decades in the administration, Glass said she enjoyed the entire experience.

"I just loved it," she said.

Glass said she appreciated her staff, which was about 120 people, and especially the residents.

"I just loved every one of them," she said.

One of the difficult aspects of the industry was losing residents, she said.

"I tried to go to all the funerals, and that kept me hopping," Glass said with a laugh.

The center was originally built for 50 patients, and "they filled up in a hurry," Glass said. Glass continued to add on to the original building over time, making the center what it is today, minus Harbor Place.

One addition was the childcare center, which still exists.

"That was another need that came up," Glass said, noting that she had requests from many people for a childcare center. "It served a need for both the employees and the community."

Part of Glass's future plans for the Cottesmore campus was 50 retirement apartments, primarily for family members of those in the nursing home. Glass said she is glad to see this dream come to fruition, on a grander scale than she ever envisioned, with the addition of Harbor Place (see page 10 of today's People, Pride and Progress special section).

It was in the mid-1990s that Glass's son, John Glass, said she should consider selling the facility, as she was in her mid-70s and getting too old to manage it any longer.

While Glass said she didn't completely agree, she took her son's advice and began seeking buyers.

Glass was most interested in two buyers, one of which was Life Care Centers of America.

"They were so wonderful, Life Care," Glass said.

The corporation flew Glass and others to meet the company's leaders, and Glass said she appreciated the way she was

treated.

"They treated us so royally," she said.

While she appreciated the company's hospitality, its offer was lower than what she had hoped for, she said, and she decided to accept a higher offer from a different buyer.

However, at the last minute, Glass said, the higher bidder was unable to go through with the deal and the facilities went to Life Care, which increased its initial offering price.

"So, we got the price, and we sold, and, oh, I felt so much better," Glass said.

Cottesmore was sold in 1996, and while Glass said she still misses it to this day, she is glad she sold.

Glass said she still visits some of the residents at Cottesmore and her son continues to work at the facility in the maintenance department.

Glass now spends her days with her roommate, Lois Mower, in her University Place house.

"We never know what we're going to do next," Mower said with a laugh.

Glass said she enjoys having Mower's company. And at 83 years old, Glass is still able to drive and lead a fulfilling life.

"I've got it made," she said.

# Glass recognized for outstanding volunteer service

Cottesmore founder is honored for years of care giving

SUSAN SCHELL  
*of the Gateway*

Inez Glass is the kind of woman who has a natural knack for taking care of people. She considers founding Cottesmore of Life Care center in Gig Harbor, a senior care living facility, a natural extension of her desire to take care of her and other people's aging families.

"I told my family, 'When you get older I'll take care of you,'" she said. "And most of them I did."

When she sold the facility to Life Care Centers of America in 1996, she continued to lend a hand as a volunteer, something she continues to this day. Her giving spirit results in rejecting any notion that what she is doing is anything special. Life Care disagrees.

At the company's annual management meeting awards banquet in Cleveland, Tenn. last month, Glass was honored with the Carl W. Campbell Wind Beneath My Wings Award, an annual award recognizing outstanding volunteer contributions with Life Care.

She didn't have a clue that she would be an honoree at the banquet.

"They called me up and gave me this award," she said. "I was just amazed. I feel so unworthy. I haven't done anything."

Cottesmore's founder was presented with a glass sculpture of an eagle in flight.

"There must have been 500 or 600 people in this big building," Glass recalled. "You feel like a nobody and then there you are on center stage."

## Early beginnings

When World War II broke out the Leland boys were unable to join the service. But they had a sister.

Inez Leland was studying to become a nurse at Fort George Wright in Spokane.

"It was wonderful," Inez Glass said. "I had already started basic training when I joined the nurses force. I had gone beyond the Cadettes."

As the war progressed, Glass was a wanted woman.

"It was just the right time to go into the service," she said. "I had a couple brothers that couldn't go so I felt it was my duty to do it."

Glass was shipped overseas, but felt the effects of the war before she left the states.

"It was so sad," she said. "They came in and took two of our oriental nurses out of the training area out to Puyallup or wherever they were. We all wept over that. They looked like



Photo courtesy of Cottesmore of Life Care center

Inez Glass was recently awarded the Carl W. Campbell Wind Beneath My Wings Award, an annual award recognizing outstanding volunteer contributions with Life Care. Cottesmore just celebrated their 40th anniversary this week.

Japanese so they knew."

After flight nurse training at Bowman Field, Kentucky, Glass boarded a ship to a mysterious destination.

"It was very secretive when we left," she said. "They didn't tell us where we were going, we just got on a ship. When we landed we heard them playing the bagpipes and we knew we were in Scotland."

Throughout the war, Glass practiced nursing throughout Great Britain and Ireland. When the war ended, she and her husband traveled, but eventually settled in Puget Sound. Glass kept her promise to take care of her family and built a facility to offer care and companionship to citizens in their golden years. The center was named after a British town that captured the nurse's heart during the war — Cottesmore.



# Inspired by the call to help <sup>26</sup>



DREW PERINE/The News Trib

Inez Glass, 87, left, visits with Viola Decaro, 90, a friend from the time they both attended Stadium High, at Cottesmore of Life Care nursing home in Gig Harbor. Glass helped found the nursing home center at a time when few existed.

## NURSING HOME: Business she began celebrates 40 years

BY BRENT CHAMPACO  
The News Tribune

Inez Glass has long felt the call to help people – an inspiration that took her to one of the defining battles of World War II, an instinct that led her to start a Gig Harbor nursing home to care for her aging family.

The University Place native, who still lives there today, was a

nurse with the U.S. Army Air Force's 818th Medical Training Squadron. It tended to injured soldiers who were shuttled by plane between Normandy, France and Allied military bases in England and Scotland in the summer of 1944.

Glass says it was one of the saddest things she's ever experienced – trying to help soldiers injured in intense battles surrounding D-Day.

"It was so tragic, all those who were killed," she said tearfully as she retold her life story last week. "We started picking up all the

boys. Some of them were just so tragic."

"You just felt an awful responsibility to do all you could for them," she added. "There was one guy, he said, 'Let me die, let me die.' We couldn't do that."

Today, Glass, 87, has a lifetime of stories to tell. She's a nursing icon in the Gig Harbor area, where she founded Cottesmore nursing home 40 years ago and continues to be its most active volunteer. The home's namesake is a British air base where Glass



Courtesy Inez Glass

Glass in her U.S. Army  
nursing uniform in 1944.

Please see HELP, back page

## HELP

CONTINUED FROM A1

was stationed for three months during World War II.

She's been doing a lot of reflection this year as Cottesmore celebrates 40 years in business. Life Care Centers of America, the Tennessee-based company that bought the home from her more than a decade ago, named Glass its volunteer of the year last month. Last year, she received the Non-Commissioned Officers Association's World War II Legacy Award for her service.

It all began when Glass, the youngest of 15 children, opened Cottesmore to fulfill a pledge to her family that she would take care of them during their elder years. A few family members stayed until they died.

Now Glass is the face of Cottesmore. Her framed pictures and stories hang from the walls of the nursing facility, and her face is on countless brochures.

Ask anyone who works or lives there, and they'll likely share how Glass made them her family, and the home her life.

Maria Gonzalez walked in 23 years ago hoping to get a temporary job as a nurse. Glass hired her on the spot.

Gonzalez, who today is Cottesmore's receptionist, said the home has plenty of longtime workers who stayed because of Glass.

"It's been our home away from home," Gonzalez said last week. "We see her as a second mother."

Glass said she's wanted to help people since she was a child. It came naturally, being the youngest kid in a large household.

The 1939 graduate of Stadium High attended Pacific Lutheran University for a year before signing on at Tacoma General Hospital, where she trained to be a nurse.

By the time she completed her training in 1943, the country's attention was focused on the war with Germany and Japan. Not only was the country training soldiers to fight, it also was looking for nurses who wanted to treat them.

Glass enlisted in the Army, then was accepted into the Army Air Force, predecessor to today's U.S. Air Force. She trained to take care of injured soldiers in transit from the war zone back to the base. She learned always to carry a knapsack with morphine and other medicine for soldiers with burns and other injuries.

For weeks, she and the rest of the

**WHAT:** Open house to celebrate Cottesmore of Life Care's 40th anniversary

**WHEN:** Tuesday, 3-6 p.m.

**WHERE:** Cottesmore of Life Care, 2909 14th Ave. N.W., Gig Harbor

**WHAT ELSE:** Founder Inez Glass will be the guest speaker.

squadron cared for "the boys," as she still calls them.

Glass remembers the day her squadron learned the war was over. They were flying over the Azores islands, en route to mainland Europe.

"When we landed, I went into the chapel and prayed," she recalled. "I prayed that everyone would be OK."

After the war, she married Eugene Glass, the boyfriend of a fellow nurse who had died in a plane crash. The two consoled each other and eventually a romance grew.

Her husband's career as a captain took the couple and their three kids to locales such as Japan, Turkey and Virginia before they eventually settled in the South Sound.

Inez Glass worked as a nurse in Tacoma. After her husband died in 1963, she was a

single mother working night shifts to take care of her children during the day.

"All this time while I was working, I was thinking about the nursing home," Glass said. "I had made a promise to my family I had to uphold."

Six years later, after teaming with a member of her church and persuading investors to help fund the \$750,000 project, Cottesmore opened with 52 rooms and Glass as president.

After selling Cottesmore and retiring in 1996, she continued volunteering, especially through her church – a testament to her faith in God.

Glass can still name many of the patients she's served and can recall the funny moments they shared. She refuses to take credit for her accomplishments, deferring to others.

The grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother of five still lives by the motto that inspired her to help people both on and off the battlefield.

"It didn't matter then, whether I was safe or what," Glass said. "I was just one of the rest of them. Someone needed help, so I wanted to help them however I could."

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