At press time, it was learned of the passing of a great AANA leader, Helen Lamb Frost, CRNA.

Helen Lamb Frost, one of the original founders of the AANA, dies

Helen Lamb Frost, CRNA, one of the original founders of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, president of the Association from 1940-41, and recipient of the AANA Agatha Hodgins Award for Outstanding Accomplishment, died in her California home on September 3, 1979.

The week previous, a commemorative concert by the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra, was held at the AANA Annual Meeting in honor of the 50 years that she had devoted to the nurse anesthesia profession.

Though unable to attend the concert, Helen Lamb summarized her feelings toward the AANA and its members in the following message:

..."I have been both instrumental and interested in the actions of the AANA. I only wish I could have done more, as I feel there is so much more to be taught and understood by all of us who are dedicated to the field of nurse anesthesia."

..."I have been truly blessed with the friends and co-workers who have worked by my side to do all we can to start, what today has become such an organized and educated association—so dedicated to the saving of human life through the correct application of anesthesia."

..."If I could be allowed... a piece of good advice to all my friends, students and loved ones, it would be to love one another and work hard to better yourselves and your profession, as these two things alone are goals worth having."

Helen Lamb founded the School of Anesthesia, Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1929. At the time of the AANA Annual Meeting, the school was celebrating its 50th anniversary. She served as director of this school until 1951. She was at the first organizational meeting of the National Association of Nurse Anesthetists on June 17, 1931, and was elected third vice president of the association. Mrs. Frost served as chairman of the AANA Education Committee from 1932 through 1939, and established the curriculum and minimum standards for schools of nurse anesthesia. She served as president of the AANA from 1940-41.

Helen Lamb collaborated with Dr. Richard von Foregger in the development of the von Foregger anesthesia machine; and administered the first endotracheal anesthetic in the United States for the thoracic surgeon, Dr. Evarts Graham. She also contributed the chapter on endotracheal anesthesia (which has become a classic) to the book, Thoracic Surgery, authored by Dr. Graham.

In 1976, she was awarded the AANA Annual Agatha Hodgins Award for Outstanding Accomplishment, which is aimed at recognizing individuals whose "foremost dedication to excellence has furthered the art and science of nurse anesthesia."

Helen Lamb is survived by her husband, Jack Frost. It is the request of the family that should memorials be desired, they should take the form of donations to the AANA Education Fund.