Baltimore. She retired from Jewish Hospital in St. Louis as chief nurse anesthetist.

When she assumed the office of AANA president, she chose a theme of "the year of destiny," alluding to the forthcoming bicentennial of the United States. "Our thoughts turn to nostalgic events and places, to the beginnings of our nation, and to the beginning of AANA when, in both instances, dedicated and knowledgeable persons gathered together to set down ideals to build a firm foundation from which to grow.... how fortunate we were to have had such visionary groups."

Dolores Biggins, CRNA

At the end of her term she commented, "The professional goals set down by the founders of this organization were achieved by human beings like ourselves. Their efforts and sacrifices made possible the AANA of today, and by helping put the present in perspective with the past, the AANA can prepare for the future with more confidence."

She concluded, "Let us be inspired by our origins and by the challenges that we face." Her contributions to the Association will now be an inspiration to us.

Donations may be made to the Marilyn Fixman Cancer Fund, Jewish Hospital, 216 S. King Highway, St. Louis, MO 63110.

CRNA pioneer Sophie Winton dies at age 102

On April 24, CRNA pioneer Sophie Winton died at age 102. She had been awarded the AANA Agatha Hodgins Recognition Award in 1984. A practitioner in anesthesia for more than 50 years, Mrs. Winton served as a nurse anesthetist in the American Expeditionary Forces in France during World War I, receiving numerous military honors.

In 1933, she lent her financial support in a test case in California that was to have far-reaching effects on the practice of nurse anesthetists — the case of Dagmar Nelson vs. Chalmers-Frances. Later, Mrs. Winton established a dental outpatient clinic in California and was awarded honors by the Mexican Dental Society in conjunction with the International Dental Association for her advancement in the delivery of dental anesthesia.

At the request of a group of plastic surgeons seeking quality anesthesia, she opened an outpatient plastic surgery clinic, numbering among her patients Judy Garland, Tyrone Power, Ronald Coleman and Deanna Durbin. She was an independent practitioner who forged new ground for nurse anesthetists.

Mrs. Winton's pioneer spirit was reflected in some of her experiences during World War I. She was sent to the mobile front line units where the majority of the nurse anesthetists served. She often described how shells would fly close to the hospital and the surgeons and staff would duck under the OR table while she would continue her anesthesia, holding one of the metal surgical trays over her head and her patient's head. She said they used only open drop ether and chloroform and had no oxygen or nitrous oxide, because the Army did not have enough supplies to send to the front lines.

Sophie Winton, CRNA

CRNA Joyce Kelly had been close to Mrs. Winton during the last several years, and has indicated to us that any memorial contributions may be made to the AANA Education and Research Foundation (ERF).

More states visited

My most recent travels have taken me to the opening celebration of the Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthetists' 50th Anniversary. I had an opportunity to meet with the Illinois AANA's new president, Ken Potts, CRNA.

I also was welcomed to the Nebraska AANA's Annual Meeting, presided over by President Charles Rowse, CRNA.