of The Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley, Ephrata, PA. Author: Dr. Robert U. Wissler, M.D.

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considering the means of transportation then available, and were difficult for patients to travel to. But an Ephrata location could be central to serving the needs of the people of Murrell, Hinkletown, Hahnstown, Bowmansville, Red Run, Cocalico, Blainsport, Adamstown, Swartzville, Denver, Reamstown,

Cover: A silhouette of Jacob Hibshman (1772-1852), from the collection of the

al Society of the Cocalico Valley.

others. Then, on June 20, 1937, the Silver Belle publication Spiritual Truth announced that the Camp was establishing the Stephan Memorial Hospital at the old Mountain Springs Hotel. The group was dedicating the hospital to the Stephans, who had since died. The hospital occupied that portion of the hotel known as the mansion, once the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Von Neida, who had operated the resort before its sale to the spiritualists, who actually manned the newly set up hospital. The place was supervised by Mr. Henry Munch, with Mrs. Munch as assistant and director of nursing. At the dedication the nursing staff consisted of Laura Shirk of Ephrata and Mary

Stevens, New Holland, Terre Hill, Martindale, Schoeneck, Durlach, Hope-

land, Clay, Brickerville, Brunnerville, Lincoln, Millway, Rothsville, Akron,

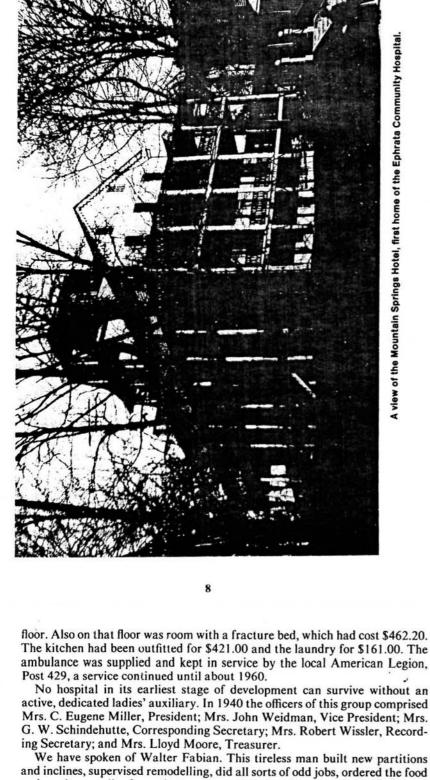
Lititz, Brownstown, Talmage, Farmersville, Voganville, Bareville, Leola, and

Einwechter of Audubon, New Jersey. The hospital was declared a non-profit organization, all monies accrued beyond actual running expenses to be put back into the institution in the form of buildings and equipment. Future plans in 1937 called for a hospital of brick or concrete block facing Spring Garden Street. The board of directors comprised L. S. Brown, Pittsburgh; Verner Barber, Llanerch; Harry Coover, Ephrata; Emma Munch, Aubudon; Ethel Post (née Parrish) and Lena Barnes Jefts, Miami, Florida; and two doctors selected by the group to represent the local physicians, namely Dr. Arlene Schlott, Ephrata and Dr. Rupp, Akron. The hospital was incorporated on September 23, 1936 before Mr. S. A. Myers, Notary Public, and approved on December 23, 1936. The corporation was organized on a stock-share basis, 100 shares issued at par value \$5.00. The assets consisted of no real estate and \$1000 worth of personal property. Cash for stock issued (\$500) was to be paid to the treasurer, Lena Barnes Jefts. The corporation was to have the right to obtain

donations, gifts, or other assets to the value of \$1,000,000. Stockholders liable

for dues or assessments were Ethel Post, Lena Jefts, L. S. Brown, Verner Barber, and Harry Coover. Such were the small but determined and outreaching efforts early in the course of the hospital. During the next two or three years the hospital grew slowly. Harold A. Mengle, M.D. came in 1939 from Everett, Pennsylvania to be director and surgeon. By early 1940 the staff consisted of Miss Ethel Pepple, R.N., head nurse and X ray technician; Miss Grettle Hirshfield, laboratory technician and assistant X-ray technician; Miss Helen Mahalich, R.N.; Mrs. Christian Hayes, R.N.; Miss Katherine Yoder, cook; and Mr. Walter Fabian, superintendent. Miss Donna Hooper came to the hospital in 1941 and worked in the O.R. for many years until her retirement in 1979. Her sister, Dorothy Hooper, came in 1948 to do the X-ray technician's job and left in 1951. The active medical staff in early 1940, in addition to Dr. Mengle, included C. Eugene Miller, M.D. and Warren H. Fake, M.D., among others. A group of interested local citizens, among whom Dr. Mengle had active leadership, took action to place the Stephan Memorial Hospital on a commu-

nity basis. On May 31, 1940 the Court of Common Pleas in Lancaster granted



Dr. Riffert's workload grew increasingly heavy during the years of our involvement in World War II. In 1943 Miss Ann Kraynick joined the administrative staff, performing very efficiently the difficult tasks of billing, paying bills, and medical record keeping. Miss Kraynick worked diligently through these growing formative years until 1979. She was a vital factor in keeping our medical administration on track until other trained administra-

tors came to work in the institution in 1949 and later. Her duties then became

and routine supplies for patients, managed the laundry, served as orderly, and

attended to many other services willingly, cheerfully, and efficiently. He was a

surgery, the referring doctors, almost all of us, assisting in that of our

1941-1946

After Dr. Riffert assumed his duties in the hospital, he performed all of the

very vital part of the young, growing organization.

individual patients. Mrs. Perdew administered the anesthesia.

and was to be delivered. Since there was then no second anesthetist for the delivery room, at such times one or another of the doctors who would accept such duty on an emergency basis would be called to administer open-drop ether anesthesia for the delivery. Emergency room work, however, since his arrival in Ephrata, was largely conducted by Dr. Riffert, day or night. Some relatively minor cases might be attended by the patients' own local practitioners, but for the most part such work came to Dr. Riffert's attention.

raise funds for such an undertaking was begun. A company was hired to direct

the campaign to raise \$125,000 for a sinking fund for the construction of a

new building, which was to come about much later. Elected to the board that

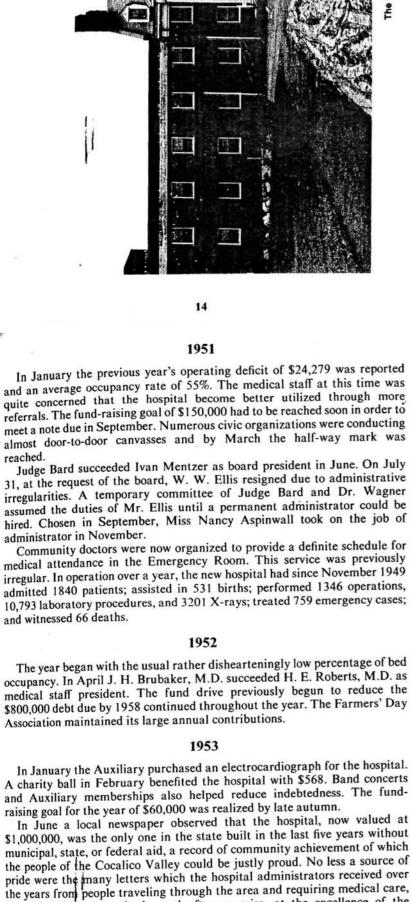
year were Ira E. Fasnacht, President; John Z. Hottel, Vice President; the Rev.

Lyttle, Secretary; John Kostecky, Treasurer; and Amos Hartz (of Caernar-

von), H. Shirker, C. Eugene Miller, M.D., Carl H. Myerly, M.D., Landis

Buchen, Milton Eberly, R. U. Fassnacht, Harry Coover, and Mrs. G. W.

Schindehutte, who was president of the Auxiliary. The value of a new modern



community, was hired to institute an improved system of monitoring and

letters expressing gratitude, and often surprise, at the excellence of the

replaced by a new parking lot to accommodate additions to the hospital.) In

recent years the fetes, which have realized many thousands of dollars for the

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establishment of a dental clinic, an objective which never materialized.

In October the hospital received a bequest from Lena Hertz for the

In June fetes were begun on an annual basis on the hospital's vast lawn bordering on Martin Avenue. (This lawn has since been torn up and is being

treatment they received at the hospital.

collecting patient's accounts.

structure as it exists today in 1987.

hospital, have been conducted in the community park.

Other committees and workers started their fund-raising activities, getting going earnestly on June 3. Mr. Paul L. Gravenor, a relatively new resident to our town, was named chairman of the borough solicitation. So well did these volunteers push the campaign, that by the end of the third week they had collected the sum of \$300,000 in cash and pledges. The medical staff alone pledged \$75,000. A well-known woman from Denver, our head maternity nurse, Mrs. Clarence Mohn, R.N., had served our hospital many years. Sh and depended on by all our nurses and doctors. She led an Auxiliary

96, a much loved and widely respected doctor in Ephrata, in September. Also retiring this year was Mr. Walter A. Fabian, whose energetic activity for the institution from its earliest days has already been noted. Fundraising continued briskly through the year, and on October 18 ground was broken for a new wing of the hospital, whose estimated cost of \$750,000 had already been partially met with cash and pledges totalling \$505,543. The new construction would add twenty beds and twelve nursing bassinets, raising the totals to 85 and 30 respectively. Plans called for a maintenance building, a laundry, a new boiler room, a laboratory, a new operating room, new X-ray facilities, an improved pediatric section, two nurseries, physical therapy equipment, new office space, and a cafeteria.

We must pause here to note the passing of Dr. J. F. Mentzer, at the age of

full federal grant. 1959 In February Robert G. Garver succeeded Thomas Fogarty as credit manager. Also the annual charity ball was held this month, attended by 225

people, which brought additional money to the building fund. Bids were

1960

By the spring of this year construction of the new addition was well under

opened for the project in July, the lowest being \$1,357,944.

1961 In January some rooms in the new wing were already in use. By late spring it was in full use. The hospital had now attained a 100-bed capacity. The largest part of the second floor was devoted to obstetric facilities. Three delivery and two labor rooms were located here. There were four nurseries,

private, and ward facilities. The first floor addition contained three operating rooms, a recovery room, central supply, a sterlizing department, and the physiotherapy section. On the ground floor, at driveway and parking lot level, were the accident and dispensary sections, laboratories, and equipment for the X-ray depart-The original 1949 structure was extensively renovated to accommodate more patients and more office space. The new wing and improvements were dedicated on October 29. Absent from those ceremonies was Dr. Carl H. Myerly, who had been elected staff president in May 1960, but who died in

ment.

By late 1961 the medical staff of the hospital had grown considerably. Dr. Luke Youndt continued to be our radiologist, as he had been since 1949. The roster of emergency room doctors included virtually all of the area's general practitioners on a rotating basis. ted. Extra facilities lie outside the hospital buildings proper. The creek below the hospital's property is now nearly on the front doorstep.

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THE EPHRATA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

by Robert U. Wissler, M.D.

From Its Founding to 1961

FOREWORD

This writer, a life-long resident of Ephrata, was, during the years that the concept of a hospital for the community was being formed, a more or less disinterested observer. I recall the feelings our people had when a new group

we knew as "spiritualists" came among us. Our folks-at least the older generation-were slow to feel familiar with their presence. Sources for the compilation of this account have mostly been scrapbooks containing news clippings painstakingly gathered over the years. Miss Ann Kraynick, our long-time and well-loved medical librarian, collected news items meticulously from her arrival in 1943 until her retirement in the late 1970's. Information from this rich source has been supplemented from

interviews with Mrs. Ethel Perdew (née Pepple), R.N. and Dr. Paul M. Riffert, as well as from a booklet published in late 1940 memorializing the work of the earliest medical director of the hospital, the Stephan Memorial Hospital, Dr. Harold A. Mengle. THE BEGINNING The earliest medical institution, preceding the actual Ephrata Community

Hospital, was the Stephan Memorial Hospital, organized by a spiritualist group, Camp Silver Belle. The group met the Ephrata couple, Mr. and Mrs.

John Stephan, in Florida in the early 1930's, and together with them bought property in town, the Ephrata Park. This place they used for their meetings.

conferences, services, and vacations. Around 1935 the local American Legion Post 429 bought the park property from the group, which in turn bought the whole Mountain Springs Hotel property from the Von Neida family, moving their business and other activities there. The old hotel had been a summer resort and spa of sorts from about the time of the Civil War well into the beginning of this century. But by the 1920's it had decayed as a resort and had no business at all at the time of the Camp Silver Belle purchase. As early as 1918, so stated the Ephrata Review on May 31, 1958, tentative plans were spoken of for a hospital to meet the needs of the people of northern Lancaster County. The Lancaster city hospitals were rather far removed, 5 a charter to the institution to be named the Ephrata Community Hospital.

The purpose was declared to be the care and treatment of sick persons from the borough of Ephrata and environs requiring hospitalization; the hospital was to be non-profit and non-sectarian, administered by a board of directors. The corporation was to exist in perpetuity. The officers and board of directors were: Ira E. Fasnacht, President; Rev. Harvey M. Lyttle, Secretary-Treasur-

D.O.

The immediate staff to conduct the hospital has already been named. The doctors in the general area supporting the hospital in the fall of 1940 were the Akron: D. S. Regar, M.D.; J. H. Reynolds, M.D. Blue Ball: Anderson, M.D. Bowmansville: Grant Eisenberg, M.D. Brownstown: R. J. Goldin, M.D.; A. V. Walters, M.D. Denver: R. L. Harnish, M.D.; J. H. Mentzer, M.D.; H. E. Roberts, M.D. Ephrata: W. H. Fake, M.D.; J. B. Hudson, D.O.; J. F. Mentzer, M.D.; C. E. Miller, M.D.; E. R. Miller, M.D.; R. R. Reuchle, D.O.; H. G. Reemsnyder,

er; W. H. Fake, M.D.; John Z. Hottel; Harry S. Coover; and B. J. Hudson,

Wagner, M.D.; R. U. Wissler, M.D.; A. H. Zwally, M.D. Honeybrook: Bemberg, M.D. Lincoln: C. H. Myerly, M.D. New Holland: W. Faust, M.D.; A. E. Martin, M.D.; John Martin, D.O.; E. H. Metford, D.O.; W. Wentz, M.D.

Reinholds: M. W. Levenson, M.D. Terre Hill: J. M. Wenger, M.D. Soon after the charter was arranged, Dr. Mengle died suddenly in May, 940. After a game of tennis with Dr. Harnish, he returned to his home in Blue Ball, where he also had an office, and died in the shower. At his death Dr. C. Eugene Miller assumed supervision of the hospital with Dr. W. H. Fake as consultant in surgery and X-ray. This arrangement continued until October of that year, when Paul M. Riffert, M.D. came to Ephrata to establish a surgical

then that I came to know professionally many of the medical people I have named, who had already been in active practice in the community, and I proceeded to support the hospital with most of them. In this first Ephrata Community Hospital, still in the buildings of the old Mountain Springs Hotel, the physical arrangement was as follows: the administration office was located in the west side of the building facing town, overlooking the park-like lawn fronting it. The space was enlarged soon after Dr. Riffert arrived by enclosing a porch. Next to this space, really a part of it, was Dr. Riffert's very small office and examining room. In this cramped office

or surgical treatment was actually seen in the environs of the O.R. A curving driveway led from Spring Garden Street, behind the building, around to this doorway. A short distance beyond the door a hallway led past an autoclaving and sterilizing room to the kitchen. The building was heated by a coal furnace almost directly beneath the O.R. and kitchen. In the floor of the hall leading past the sterilizing equipment was a trap-door, fairly close to the outside door. When coal was to be delivered the truck would drive up and the outside door would be opened and then the trap-door. Coal would then be chuted to the cellar. One can imagine the

room, almost a part of it, so that any patient coming in for emergency medical

their beds after surgery in a like manner. Caesarian section patients had to be carried upstairs by the doctors in attendance, nurses, and Walter Fabian. The stairs were narrow and cramped. There was no elevator. On the first floor there were about ten surgical and medical beds, including one three-bed ward, whose furnishings incidentally cost \$486.75, according to information on the early expenses of the hospital. Four to six obstetric patients were accommodated on the second floor in small rooms with narrow doorways and corridors. The delivery room was also upstairs, of course, small and cramped, with the scrub-sink right next to the delivery table. A small

hospital two weeks before being discharged. The hospital's other facilities were adequate, considering its size. The X-ray room, whose equipment had cost \$3,511.63, and a laboratory were on the first hospital to the health of the community was uppermost in the minds of these people, but, since government grants were also being sought, the money was also needed to meet federal guidelines. Sheriff William D. Leed was appointed general chairman of the fund drive, whose headquarters were set up at 34 East Main Street. Mrs. John Hottel was office secretary. A large group of citizens was enrolled to participate in the solicitation of funds. Real activity began after a supper at the Legion Home on June 18, 1943. It had been ruled that the Porough Council would not be allowed to make any contribution for the construction of the building but would be allowed to contribute toward its maintenance. Donations were sought from individuals, clubs and other organizations, as well as businesses. At that opening supper Mrs. Schindehutte on behalf of the Auxiliary presented a pledge \$2500 on the condition that the Auxiliary would have a

Myerly, Souder, Sheaffer, E. R. Wissler, Eberly, Eshelman, I. E. Fasnacht, Fox, C. E. Miller, Nissley, Mrs. Schindehutte, Martin, and Zook, now set a fund-raising goal of \$300,000, in addition to the funds already on hand. But the 70-bed idea was realistically scaled down to 35 beds. By July a site for the new building in the Arlington section of Ephrata had been chosen and the plot had been bought for \$12,350. The actual cash on hand then was \$76,000. There had been a net operating profit in the previous fiscal year of \$1,851.84. In August John Z. Hottel, the board president, announced the awarding of a contract to erect the building to Landis Buchen for \$410,000.

Transfer of patients from the old hospital to the new began on the following day and was completed two days later. The Legion ambulance moved the patients and Walter Wolf's Ephrata Motor Express conveyed the equipment and supplies. Eugene Wissler, Henry Hoover, and many helpers co-ordinated the effort with extraordinary efficiency. Ira Fasnacht's men handled the plumbing jobs, disconnecting water and relocating sinks, bowls, etc. Walter Fabian, spoken of earlier in this account, was also quite active in the move, recording some of the details in a letter to the Ephrata Review. New patients now began to arrive as well. On the second day after the new facility opened a baby was born there. Mr. Shaffer, who had left to take on

another position in September before the new hospital opened, was succeeded as administrator by Mr. Walter W. Ellis, of Lewes, Delaware. In December Ivan H. Mentzer was chosen president of the board. One of his first acts in that capacity was to accept for the hospital a new station wagon from Lloyd Gerhart, president of the Farmers' Day Association. That organization not only donated the vehicle but pledged itself to defray costs of its maintenance as well. Other groups soon formed to aid the new hospital, such as Gray Ladies' Service and sewing groups to work in a sewing room. Donations of

Myerly, Redcay, Ridgeway, Condit, and W. S. Regar.

practicing physician or dentist in good standing with the Northern Lancaster County Medical Society or the Lancaster County Dental Society respectively. Room rates announced by Mr. Ellis were as follows: ward, \$6 per day; semi-private room, \$8 per day; and private room, \$10-\$14 per day. 1950 The new hospital was now open but money was slow coming in to meet contract obligations and equipment bills. In February a judgment against the hospital for \$229,500 was filed in Lancaster County Court. Mr. Edwin B. Nolt of the thriving New Holland Machine Company held a note for The Ladies Hospital Auxiliary worked hard to reduce the indebtedness, realizing \$525.44 from a food stand at the Farmers' Fair. Mrs. Earl Good, vice

president of the Auxiliary, presided at the meeting when the presentation was made. Ladies were kept busy in the sewing room, having been solicited for this work during the summer. By November, the first anniversary of the new institution, they had raised an additional \$2000. At that time a new fund drive

In December the hospital's new blood bank was put into operation, a project developed by Drs. Kowaleski (chairman), Curtis H. Swartz, Russell Derr, Ross Schmidt, and Mr. W. W. Ellis. Mr. Robert Hobbins was the first donor, his blood being drawn by Miss Donna Hooper, R.N., and Mrs. Ethel Perdew, R.N. The Amvets, chaired by Ray Numbers, began a compaign urging all local residents to have their blood typed and recorded. But the blood bank was

of \$150,000 was launched under the leadership of Ivan H. Mentzer.

a vital resource not only for the immediate community, for by this time the hospital had arranged with the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to accommodate emergency patients from accidents on the nearby highway. 15 1954-55 During these years constant fund-raising activities yielded funds to trim the hospital's indebtedness. Community interest continued high and all sorts of

June 1955 a set of healthy triplets was born by Caesarean section to a

1956

Farmers' Day Association presented the hospital with a new stationwagon on

the same basis that the former ones had been donated. The estate of H. Wilson

Zwally, a well-known businessman of the community, endowed the hospital

with a trust fund of \$10,000. From the Ford Foundation came a grant of \$15,310 for general operating expenses, and the American Legion bought for

The winter of 1955-56 was particularly severe, one blizzard closing many

Although by this time the Salk vaccine was coming into general use, cases

In October a bus overturned on Route 222 and nine injured passengers were

brought to the emergency room. The unusually burdened E.R. staff called in

of poliomyelitis were still common in our region. The hospital led efforts to immunize as many younger people as possible in schools, clinics, and even

roads. Helicopters from the State National Guard were called on to bring in maternity patients. They landed in a parking lot in the general area where the

the hospital a new ambulance at \$10,000 to replace an older one.

This year was marked by a number of grants and bequests. In March the

42-year-old woman, already a grandmother.

next addition was to be build in 1961.

outside help, and the patients were treated properly and efficiently. The improved financial position of the institution encouraged plans for expansion, and in October R. U. Fasnacht became chairman of the planning committee for the board. A twenty-five year long-range plan envisioned a hospital with a capacity of three hundred beds.

It would be well to say briefly that our emergency room services were very active, with a group of dedicated aides, orderlies, and nurses. A supervising E.R. nurse for many years was our much respected Amy Powell, R.N. The Board reported a loss of \$33,972 for the six-month period ending November 30, 1957. Long delinquent bills were a problem. Accordingly, in February 1959 Mr. Robert Garver, a native and long-time resident of the

19 This continued augmentation of the hospital will provide space for larger emergency and outpatient departments and short-stay units. Renovations of the older building will ailow for improved laboratory and X-ray facilities. For not only has medical technology itself demand the expansion, but the community that the hospital serves, roughly an area with a radius between four and six miles of the Square in downtown Ephrata, has grown from less than 40,000 to between 50,000 and 60,000 inhabitants. These people are well served by the efforts of all the medical, nursing, and accessory personnel in the hospital, and are, we firmly believe, happy to have so fine and modern an institution in their midst.

M.D.; W. S. Regar, M.D.; E. D. Russell, M.D.; R. E. Schachterle, M.D.; Arlene Schlott, M.D.; P. S. Schantz, M.D.; Marcella Schweitzer, M.D.; I. G.

practice and to assume the active medical directorship of the hospital. Dr. Riffert had finished his surgical residency and although he held an army commission, was not needed on active duty. Through contacts with other medical men he had been referred to Ephrata, where the hospital needed a director and trained surgeon. He met Dr. Miller and was persuaded to make

In September 1940, I, the author of this article, also started my practice in

office in this, my hometown, where I was born, reared, and educated. It was

his home in Ephrata, to begin practice, and to direct the E.C.H.

Miss Ethel Pepple, R.N. worked with patients' accounts. This was also her director of nurses' office. She was also anesthetist, laboratory technician (before the arrival of Grettle Hirshfield, who, incidentally, had received her early technical training in a hospital in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany), and The operating room was to the rear of this old building, near the entrance for incoming ambulance patients. Through its door came patients, doctors, and anyone else who worked or had business in the hospital, as well as supplies. The small emergency room was really adjacent to the operating

problems involved in keeping those vital areas clean. Mr. Walter A. Fabian was janitor, maintenance engineer, errand man-a man of all jobs. He was a thoroughly energetic worker and helper, even carrying around litters to the O.R., up and down stairs, etc. He also did the laundry in the cellar. Fabian, a member of the spiritualist group, lived in hotel property in a house behind the hospital. Mrs. Fabian was a reader for the spiritualists and a medium. Surgical patients often walked to the O.R., were wheeled partway through narrow doors and hallways, or were carried on litters. Patients returned to

eight-crib nursery (bassinets) was off the hall to the delivery room, a nursery that was full most of the time. Through its windows proud fathers, among whom I number myself, first gazed on their children. My daughter was born in this hospital. Her mother, and the other women so confined, were constantly in fear of the old building's catching fire, for the means of exit were at best inadequate. The new mothers were kept in bed after delivery routinely from nine to ten days, after which they were permitted to walk down the long narrow corridor past the nursery to the toilet. But some had grown so weak after the long time spent in bed that they fainted on the way. Even in totally normal, uncomplicated deliveries obstetric patients were usually kept in the

Mr. Williams, of the fund-raising company, announced that after the goal had been reached, all the medical people in the area were to be called to a meeting to establish the future policy of the hospital. The goal was met-a total of \$125,174.38 in cash and pledges. Yet after the War, in 1947, four years after the initial drive, these funds were found to be quite insufficient. A seventy-bed hospital had been projected originally, but the soaring post-war costs demanded that a new fund drive be undertaken under the leadership of Mr. Harry H. Hoffman, a local businessman and funeral director. 1947 By 1947 the need for new hospital beds was critical, although the 16-bed

hospital on Main Street continued to serve the community. Between May

1946 and May 1947 the hospital cared for 58 medical, 414 surgical, 280

Musser, Redcay, Sharp, Sneed, Bollman, Bowman, Bucher, Coover, Hertz,

The board, now consisting of Hottel, Wolf, Fasnacht, Kostecky, Hartz,

obstetrical, and 267 newborn patients.

month, according to the Ephrata Review, \$40,300 had been raised.

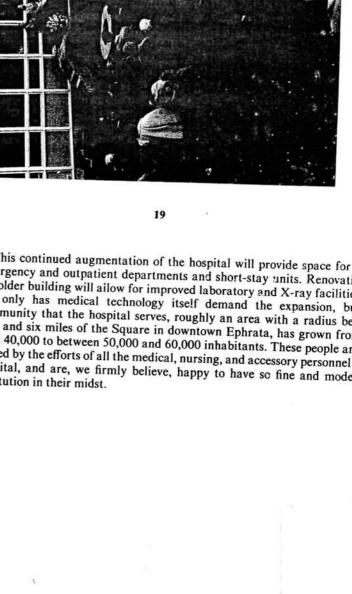
memorial in the new hospital building, i.e., a double room. By the end of the

In that same month the physicians of the Northern Lancaster County Medical Society, as our medical staff then designated itself, unanimously approved the facilities proposed for the new hospital, endorsing the \$300,000 campaign. Dr. Riffert and John Hottel outlined plans for raising the money and Dr. J. F. Mentzer offered the resolutions to support the program. The fourteen members present at the meeting voted to contribute to the fund as a group. Later a staff organization meeting was called, attended by Drs. Miller, Zwally, Riffert, Wissler, Henry Walter, Derr, Brubaker, Mentzer, Schantz,

fresh fruit and vegetables and canned products came in season. This year accreditation of the medical staff came from the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, and the Pennsylvania Hospital Association. Affiliation with the hospital was open to any

groups participated in these activities. During the summer of 1955 the note of indebtedness was burned. Finally, eight years after breaking ground, the hospital was free of debt. At this period of time some obstetric deliveries were being conducted under hypnosis. One memorable delivery at the hospital must be recorded here: in

1957 In March Dr. Riffert accepted an electrophoresis unit given to the hospital by the Lancaster chapter of the American Cancer Society.



those of a duly registered medical librarian. With the end of the War came the return of many of the medical men who had been in the service and the volume of work in the hospital on Main Street grew accordingly. The need for anesthetists was particularly critical. Sometimes in the middle of surgery an obstetric case would come into active labor Even during the War, as early as 1943, the board had realized that a new, larger, better equipped hospital would soon be needed. In May 1943 a drive to

1958

The Board discussed preliminary plans for the proposed expansion at its meeting in April. President David Eaby appointed a committee chaired by Paul S. Stoner. A drive to raise \$750,000 was to be launched in May. To stimulate enthusiasm, an architect's projection of the hospital's appearance twenty-five years into the future was published in the Ephrata Review. Needless to say, that rendition bears only a faint resemblance to the actual

fund-raising project of photographing newborn babies in the nursery. The pictures would then be offered for sale to the new mothers. Assisting in this work and volunteering their services to contact new mothers were Mrs. Carl H. Myerly, Mrs. R. U. Wissler, Mrs. John Mathisen, Mrs. R. U. Fasnacht, Mrs. Ivan Eberly, and Mrs. A. H. Zwally. The Auxiliary was active socially as well, and at one meeting, Mrs. Mathison, born in Norway though living most of her life in the United States, spoke to the group about her native country.

The Board elected Mrs. Paul J. Evancoe, who was President of the Auxiliary, to the Board of Directors in October. Further good fortune followed that month, as the announcement came from Governor George M. Leader of a federal grant of \$400,000 toward construction. Under the stipulations of the Hill-Burton Act, these funds were to be matched two to one by the institution. This meant that although a half-million dollars had been raised locally, another \$300,000 was needed to qualify for the

two glass-fronted to allow for the viewing of the newborn infants by their families. An isolette and isolation nursery were also there. A formula-foods kitchen was nearby. In all, about twenty-five babies could be cared for at one time. The second floor contained twenty-one new beds in private, semi-

June 1961. Dr. Myerly, a medical practitioner in Ephrata since 1933, had participated actively in the growth of the hospital since its inception in 1937. He lived long enough to see, but not to celebrate, the completion of the new

The completion of the first new addition to the hospital is a convenient place at which to end this account. By year's end it appeared that prospects for clearing up the debt incurred by the project were very good. And, indeed, another new wing was added in 1973-74. At this writing (March 1987) the most extensive expansion yet is under way. The new construction will lie to the north of the original buildings, closer to Route 272. The overall aspect of the already huge plant is quite different from the simple colonial facade of the 1949 building. Entrances have been relocated and parking lots have prolifera-

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