



# The *Great* Canadian Catholic Hospital History Project

Documenting the legacy and contribution of the  
Congregations of Religious Women in Canada,  
their mission in health care, and the founding and operation of Catholic hospitals.

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# Projet de la *Grande* Histoire des hôpitaux catholiques au Canada

Retracer l'héritage et la contribution des  
congrégations de religieuses au Canada,  
leur mission en matière de soins de santé ainsi que la fondation et l'exploitation des hôpitaux catholiques.

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## St. Mary's Hospital Camrose, Alberta 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1924-1974

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**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL**  
**CAMROSE, ALBERTA**

*50th Anniversary*

**1924 - 1974**

ARCHIVES Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul Kingston, Ontario

# HEARTS CONSECRATED TO CHARITY



"Thou Shalt Sanctify the Fiftieth Year . . .  
For It Is the Year of Jubilee (Lev. 25:10)

"The true past departs not; no truth or goodness realized by man ever dies,  
or can die; but all is still here, and, recognized or not,  
lives and works through endless changes."

- Carlyle

# Foreword

A Jubilee is a time for rejoicing and a time to be thankful. It also provides an occasion for reminiscing. The following pages are replete with golden yesterdays of St. Mary's Hospital, memories as gathered from those associated with this splendid institution from its conception and birth in 1924, along the years to the present day.

It is true, much of the information has been gleaned from the files of those early days, but records are only skeletons of the past. It is the living memories of people, their laughter and tears, that give flesh and life to the dead bones.

Just as a lighthouse sheds its beams afar, but none at its base, so it is with institutions such as St. Mary's Hospital. The Sisters who have given their services so graciously and selflessly have been and are too close to their work to be aware of its radiating influence. But rich and rewarding are the accounts of such experiences as related by people who have benefited because of having St. Mary's Hospital in their midst; stories, not only of relief from physical illness and pain, but of hope and trust renewed, of strength and courage to endure.

May this year of jubilee prove an occasion for the Sisters to look beyond 'the base of the lighthouse', and, in so doing, rejoice and be thankful for all that has been accomplished, while at the same time, help them look forward hopefully to the days to come.

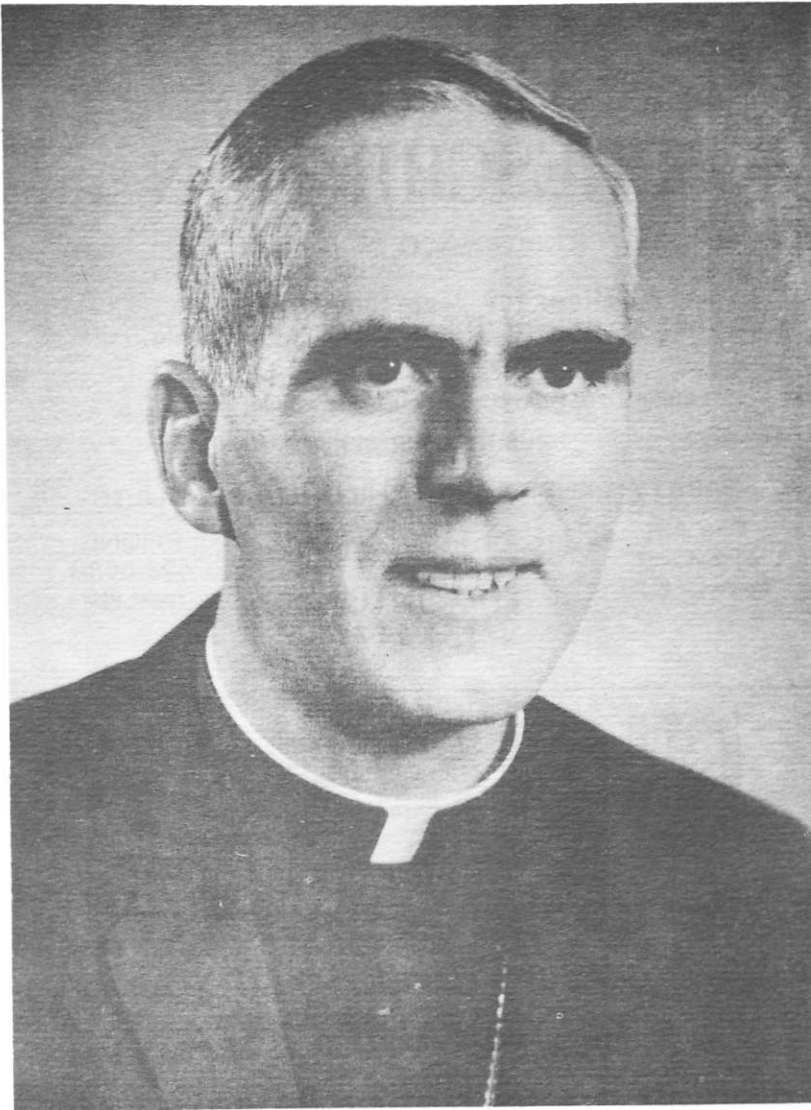
Sister Mary Faustina





**Archbishop Anthony Jordan, OMI, former archbishop of Edmonton**





**Most Reverend Joseph Neil MacNeil, J.C.D., D.D., Archbishop of Edmonton  
Successor to Archbishop Jordan, 1973**

The occasion of a Jubilee is by its very nature an occasion of rejoicing. We are happy to have a part in this celebration of St. Mary's Hospital which has been a symbol of love and mercy during the past fifty years. On behalf of the Archdiocese of Edmonton we look first to the past and, with gratitude and joy, give thanks to Almighty God and to the many who have served Him within the walls of St. Mary's. To the many Doctors, Sisters, Nurses and all personnel who have served St. Mary's we are most grateful.

And as we look to the future it is with a prayer to our Heavenly Father, from Whom all good things come, that He may give comfort and strength to the sick and the suffering; heal them in body, mind and spirit; bless the work of this and all Hospitals in our land and grant to the Physicians, Surgeons, Sisters, Nurses and to all who serve with them, patience, kindness, wisdom and skill, that your purpose of love may be given fulfilment.

**J. N. MacNeil,  
Archbishop of Edmonton.**



The staff of St. Mary's Hospital is happy to offer congratulations to the first native Lieutenant Governor of Alberta — His Honour, Lt. Governor Ralph Steinhauer, who assumed his office in this, St. Mary's year of Golden Jubilee, may God direct him in his work.



May I take this opportunity to extend heartiest greetings to the Sisters of Providence for a half-century of service through St. Mary's Hospital to Camrose and area.

May your services continue for many more years.

**Ralph Steinhauer,  
Lieutenant Governor.**





I am happy to extend greetings on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations of St. Mary's Hospital.

Those whose daily involvements are in the world of sickness and healing, of birth and death, are faced with a special challenge. The problem of maintaining the emotions of kindness and compassion in the face of suffering requires a particular dedication and a constant re-birth of courage and love.

May I extend to you this work of appreciation for the work that you are doing. I offer each one my best wishes.

**Pierre Elliott Trudeau,  
Prime Minister of Canada.**



I am very pleased to have this opportunity to extend greetings personally, and on behalf of the government of Alberta, on the occasion of the Golden Anniversary of the establishment of St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose.

St. Mary's Hospital has made many important contributions to the town of Camrose during the past fifty years, and the service and dedication of the people of this hospital will, I am sure, be recognized and appreciated by all residents of your community.

Please accept my warm and sincere best wishes to all those of St. Mary's Hospital on this special occasion of your Jubilee celebration.

**Peter Lougheed,  
Premier of Alberta.**





I am indeed pleased to add my sincere congratulations and greetings to the Sisters of Providence and the staff of St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose, on the occasion of your Golden Jubilee celebrations.

I am sure that all the citizens of Camrose and District who have supported, and in turn received the skillful care of the Sisters and staff through the past 50 years of St. Mary's Hospital existence, will join with you on October 24, 1974, to mark a milestone in the history of their community.

On behalf of all my colleagues in government, congratulations for a job well done.

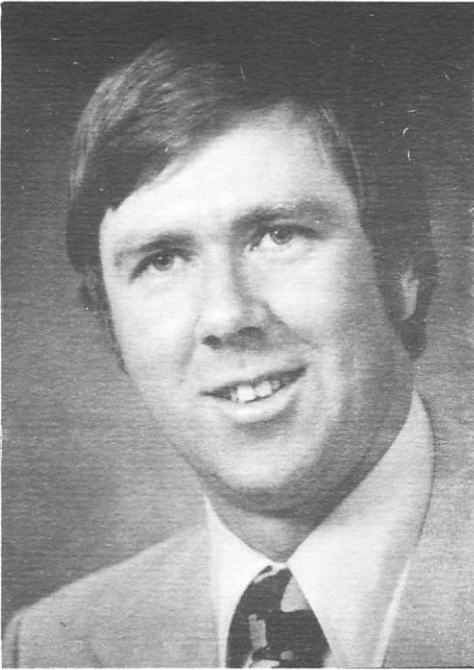
**Neil Crawford,  
Minister of Health  
and Social Development**

On behalf of the Commissioners and staff of the Alberta Hospital Services Commission, I am honoured and privileged to extend the Sisters of Providence our most sincere congratulations on the occasion of the celebration of the Golden Anniversary of St. Mary's Hospital.

The need was there and your dedication measured up to it. What greater rewards can one expect?

**J. E. Bradley, M.D.,  
Chairman,  
Hospital Services Commission.**





St. Mary's Hospital has played a vital role in the development of Camrose and area. The provision of quality health services is in no way a small task. I am fully aware that St. Mary's Hospital has had its struggles as well as its rewards. There have been times of short staffs, restricted space, and tight budgets. Sincere congratulations are in order not only because you have survived the trials and tribulations of 50 years but, more importantly, that you have done so with excellence and with a spirit of kindness. No institution more justly serves mankind than those which care for the ill.

I extend to you sincere congratulations and trust that you may continue to care for the health needs of the Citizens of Camrose and area.

**Arnold Malone, M.P.,  
Battle River.**

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of St. Mary's Hospital, may I offer on behalf of the people in the Camrose Constituency our warmest congratulations and best wishes for the years ahead.

The Sisters of Providence are to be commended for the foresight and dedication shown in building a hospital in Camrose when no-one else was able to serve the needs of the community.

**Gordon Stromberg, M.L.A.,  
Camrose Constituency.**







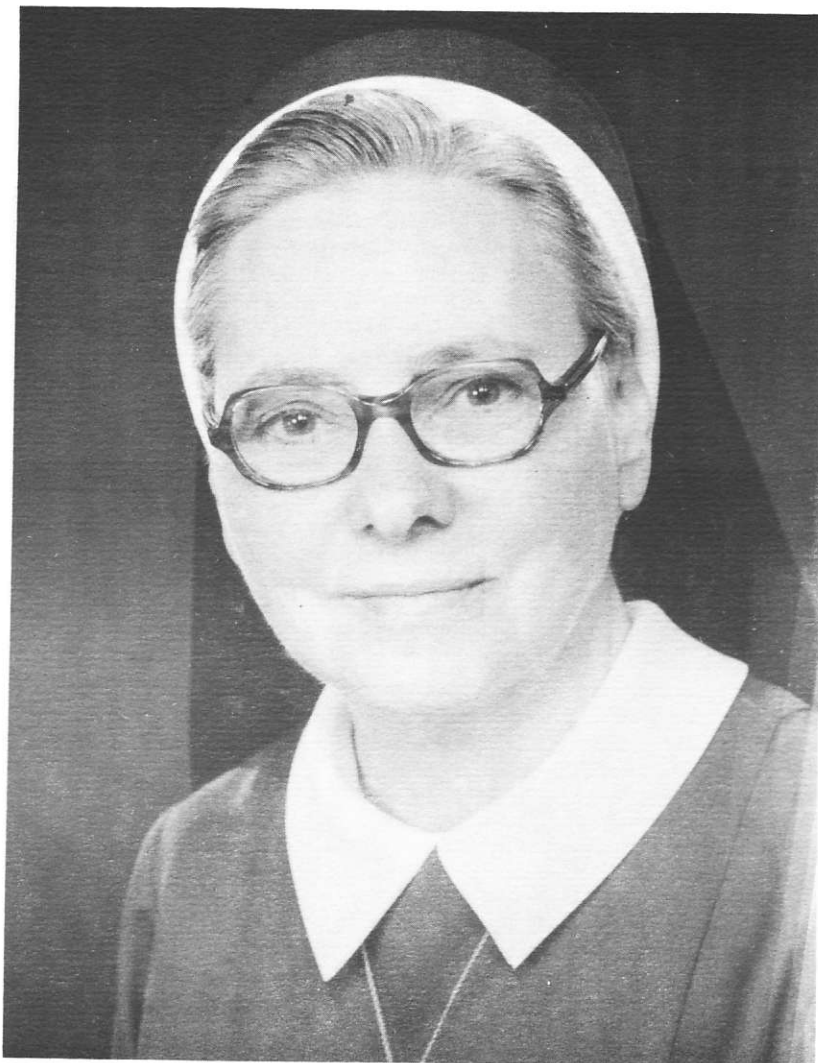
On behalf of Council and of all the Citizens of the City of Camrose it gives me great pleasure to express to the Sisters of Providence and St. Mary's Hospital our very sincerest and warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of the hospital in Camrose.

St. Mary's Hospital has now provided a service to Camrose for fifty (50) years. The hospital has developed and expanded its valued services to the people of the community in keeping with the changing technologies of hospital practice as well as expanding its number of beds to meet with the growth of our community over those fifty years.

St. Mary's Hospital is not just another institution giving service to our community but is an integral part of our community. It has always had wide open doors to any member of the community, regardless of race, color or religion, who has required its services. To it and to all the many members of its staff over those fifty years goes our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for providing a service far beyond the normal requirements of a privately operated hospital.

The Sisters of Providence have been most outstanding in their untiring and ever willing efforts to provide Camrose and District not only a much needed addition to our health services but have also been unsparing in their efforts of community leadership. We are pleased and proud to have this opportunity to extend to them our sincerest thanks for those many very human acts and to express our hope that we shall continue to benefit from and to enjoy their community contributions for many years to come.

**Rudy P. Swanson,  
Mayor, City of Camrose.**



The Sisters of Providence are happy to extend greetings and felicitations to St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of its foundation.

It is only after a lapse of time that we can measure and appreciate at their true value the events of time. A retrospect of the fifty years during which St. Mary's has functioned reveals that this is an occasion to rejoice with justifiable complacency in a task well done.

Our Community extends a sincere tribute of appreciation and gratitude to all who have had a part in the development of the hospital and in the daily services which have been rendered there so generously and so capably.

We thank God for the many blessings of the past. May the charity of Christ continue to animate all those engaged in providing truly Christian health care at St. Mary's hospital.

**Mother Margaret McDonald,  
Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul,  
"Heathfield" Kingston, Ontario.**





It is indeed a privilege to extend congratulations to St. Mary's Hospital on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

This institution since its origin in 1924 has served the needs of the community very well. It has kept pace with the growing need for additional facilities with the expansion programs of 1948 and 1968.

However, I believe that the real reason for the excellent reputation that this hospital has earned is not the physical plant itself, but it is due to the dedication of the people who have been responsible for meeting the health care needs of our community. Fortunately we have always had devoted people to operate the hospital, for this we are truly thankful.

May I extend best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

**Bob Thirsk, Chairman,  
Governing Board.**

This book can be like a well-chosen and well-tended fruit tree. Its fruits are not of one season only. With the dew and natural intervals, one may recur to it year after year, and it will supply the same nourishment and the same gratification, if only one reads it with the same appreciation of all that has been accomplished during the past 50 wonderful years.

My very best wishes to St. Mary's Hospital for the future. God bless a hundred fold all who are connected with this outstanding hospital which has a spirit all of its own.

**Sister Josephine O'Neill,  
Sister Superior.**



# **CAMROSE — THE ROSE CITY of ALBERTA**

## **THEN and NOW**



**Father Hypolyte Beillevaire**

Camrose in brief: The Camrose area was first settled around 1900. Prior to this, about 1883, a mission and trading post had been established some six miles south of Camrose by the beloved French Missionary, Father Beillevaire to serve Indians and settlers in the area now known as Duhamel. It is thought by many that the influence which Father asserted had considerable bearing on the Sisters of Providence extending their work for the relief of illness and suffering in the district. St. Thomas Church built by Father Beillevaire in 1883 has been restored and preserved as an historic site. It is now a mission of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Camrose.

The Hamlet of Sparling, which is now the City of Camrose, was incorporated as a village in 1905. In 1906 the name was changed to Camrose, named, it is generally believed, after a town in South Wales. At

this time the Village of Camrose was incorporated as a town. It was raised to the status of a city, January 1st, 1955. The growth in population has increased steadily with the years until now, 1974, it has reached 9,194, tripling its number in less than twenty-five years.

The area was originally settled by predominantly Scandinavian peoples. In spite of the fact that there has been a great influx of people from many other countries, a Scandinavian overtone is quite evident.

Agriculture was, and still is, a major factor of the economic growth of Camrose. The more recent discovery of oil has proved an added boom. This fine city has many agencies, industries and services of all types, comparable to any other city of its size, and gives promise of even greater expansion.

## A BRIEF HISTORY of the COMMUNITY

The community known as the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, was brought into being by Bishop Horan in 1861 at Kingston, Ontario. Its origin goes back to the seventeenth century when St. Vincent de Paul, aided by St. Louise de Marillac, founded a community of women which became known as the Daughters of Charity. Its purpose was to engage in all types of charitable work. In the mid-nineteenth century, another woman, Emmilie Gamelin, with the help of Bishop Ignace Bourget, obtained an authentic copy of St. Vincent's Rule and founded a diocesan community, modelled after the Daughters of Charity. This community as we know it, is called Sisters of Providence. Scarcely twenty years later, Bishop Horan of Kingston, Ontario, requested the Montreal community to establish an institute like their own in Kingston. On December 13th, 1861, these Sisters laid the foundation of the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul.

The members work for their sanctification by union with God, as they serve His people in performing all the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. In "The Act of Incorporation of St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose" it states: "The objectives of the corporation are to carry on charitable works and activities consisting of the operation of hospitals, missions, convents, schools of nursing and the like, to

impart education and religious and other training, to care for the aged, sick and unfortunate, and generally to engage in charitable and benevolent activities."

The following lines, taken from a back issue of The Prairie Messenger, seem to epitomize the calling of a Sister:

"I sought to touch the hand of God,  
and climbed the highest steeple.

"But God replied, 'Go down again,  
I dwell among the people.' "

The present Superior General is Mother Margaret McDonald.

During its fifty years of existence, St. Mary's Hospital has had ten different superiors or administrators:

Sister Mary Clotilda, Brady	1924-1930
Sister Mary Pulcheria, Curley	1930-1936
Sister Mary Alban, Hawkins	1936-1942
Sister Mary Geraldine, Egan	1942-1945
Sister Mary Alphonse, Killeen	1945-1951
Sister Mary Bonaventure, Brennan	1951-1957
Sister Mary Enda, Maguire	1957-1959
Sister Mary Clare, Doran	1959-1965
Sister Mary Dolorosa, Bekar	1965-1971
Sister Mary Josephine, O'Neill	1971-1974



**SISTER MARY CLOTILDA**  
Superior 1924-1930, Pioneer

## SISTERS OF ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL



**MOTHER M. ALBAN, HAWKINS**  
Superior 1936-1942  
Pioneer, Also Directress of Nursing 1924-1935



**SISTER MARY PULCHERIA**  
Superior 1930-1936





**SISTER MARY GERALDINE**  
1942-1945



**SISTER MARY ALPHONSE**  
Superior 1945-1951



**SISTER MARY BONAVENTURE**  
1951-1957



**SISTER MARY ENDA**  
1957-1959



**SISTER MARY CLARE**  
1959-1965



**SISTER ROSE BEKAR [Sister Mary Dolorosa]**  
1965-1971



**SISTER JOSEPHINE O'NIELL**  
1971-1974

# STORY OF THE HOSPITAL

Around the turn of the century and even earlier, in Ontario as well as in provinces further east, young men were encouraged, "Go west, young man, go west". Yes, the west abounded in opportunities for the young and eager. Many followed the recommendation, and the western provinces saw hosts of energetic and ambitious young people, with an eye to the future, setting out on this attractive and exciting adventure.

In Alberta, indications were that the area around the village of Daysland was populating rapidly and because of its location, might very soon become a large centre. A hospital was a necessity and our Sisters were asked to establish one there. Thus, Providence Hospital, Daysland, was opened in 1908. However, it soon became evident that the area around the town of Camrose, twenty-five miles farther west, was growing even more rapidly.



**SISTER M. A. GUARDIAN**

Sister Mary Angel Guardian has, by the community, affectionately been called "the foundress of the west". This stalwart and dedicated religious woman, with her indomitable spirit, well earned the title. Sister was charged with the foundation in Daysland. In 1912 she was charged with the foundation of Providence Hospital, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Following is a report written by Sister, herself in 1929, concerning the foundation of St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose, Alberta:

"This foundation was, for some years, spoken of, and the people of that town persisted in having our Sisters do hospital work there. The Archbishop and Reverend Father Harrington, Pastor, made frequent requests to the community for the work to begin. Finally in September, 1922, I was sent to Daysland, and from there was supposed to look into the matter of building a hospital in Camrose. On October 3rd of the same year, the superior, Sister Mary Camillus of Providence Hospital, Daysland, and I went to Camrose. We called first on the mayor, Mr. Adair Young, who welcomed us heartily and brought us to the proposed site already set aside for the building, a large block of land on Normal Hill. This site seemed very appropriate — sun and air, with quiet surroundings. The winter of 1923 was a busy time securing a loan and drawing up suitable plans for a sixty-five bed hospital. That being completed, the contract was given to Pool Construction Company for a fire-proof building, and the work was commenced in May. I continued the work of looking after the new hospital. Sister Mary Clotilda went there as the

superior. Our Blessed Lady certainly looked after all, as many blessings attended the work, giving glory to God."

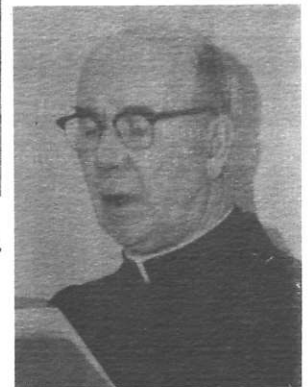
Another report states in part: "The Town of Camrose generously donated the land for the structure, and the citizens contributed unstintingly toward the undertaking. It was Reverend M. J.



**Reverend  
MATHIAS SCHNITZLER**

Reverend P. F. Harrington, parish priest succeeding Father Schnitzler, turned the first sod April 19th, 1923 for the hundred thousand dollar building."

Schnitzler, the first parish priest of Camrose, 1914-1921, who promoted the idea of a Sisters' hospital for the district.



**REVEREND  
DEAN HARRINGTON  
1921-1959**

Father Schnitzler, himself, left us an interesting account, written in 1949 on the occasion of St. Mary's Silver Jubilee, of the obstacles that had to be overcome before the dream of a hospital became a reality:

"Late January 1918 or 1919 at a regular ratepayers' meeting Mr. O. B. Olson, Mayor of Camrose at that time, reaffirmed that the need for a larger and better hospital was considered. (The town already had a small fourteen bed hospital.) The ratepayers, realizing that Camrose itself was a small town already with a considerable debt, seemed at a loss to know how a greater hospital service could be provided. I made a suggestion, 'Why not invite hospital Sisters of a religious community to come here and build a fifty-bed hospital and provide that efficient service such as Edmonton is now providing?' My suggestion was immediately picked up by Dr. Nordbye who enthusiastically called the idea a very good and splendid one, and the meeting adjourned hopefully. At the first council meeting following my suggestion, the council passed a resolution appointing me to negotiate for hospital Sisters. Consequently, I gladly wrote to Reverend Mother General, Sisters of Providence, Kingston, Ontario. Mother General replied regretting

that she had not the candidates to spare for a new venture in Camrose. I reported to Camrose council that it was not so easy to obtain Hospital Sisters and suggested that Town Council could help me by offering generous inducements, and such were made. Also a number of desirable conditions were agreed to:

1. Free site and free utilities — connections.
2. Utilities at a very low flat rate.
3. A grant of \$2,000.00 annually to the Sisters.
4. Promise to close present old hospital and be granted a sole hospital franchise for twenty years.

Dr. Nordbye and Mayor O. B. Olson of very happy memory, and respected 'peers' among the numerous Scandinavians of Camrose and district, plus a boosting Town Council, Dr. Lamb and Dr. Reid ready to go along was all I needed for a speedy conclusion for a Sisters' Hospital, and this, my suggested idea of obtaining Sisters and their acknowledged efficiency in providing hospital service, remained strong until the day of realization. In spite of the goodwill of the vast majority of Camrose kindly people and in spite of the good terms and conditions of the Town Council, I was unable to obtain acceptance by Hospital Sisters. This was entirely due to the fact that our Bishop (Emile Legal) became very ill for some time and died. Then, too, I could do nothing until the new Archbishop (Henry J. O'Leary) came. Added to this, I was transferred to Rosenheim, Alberta. Through this inaction and waiting, the idea of a Municipal Hospital, a sponsored Government plan, under Honourable McKay, took root and was promoted. A plebiscite was decided upon and was defeated at the polls. My instructive articles in the Camrose Canadian re Municipal Hospitals — one dollar a day plan — was well explained and I pointed to the fact that any deficit that accrued out of this plan would necessarily rebound to tax payers in more mills to pay. The stipulated three mills or no mills was elusive. The difference would have to be paid by the rate-payers of the municipality of such a hospital."



**First hospital in Camrose. Capacity — 12 beds.  
Closed when St. Mary's was opened. 1912 - 1924**

With the coming of Archbishop O'Leary, Father Schnitzler's dream was finally realized. On October 23rd, 1924, His Grace performed the simple but impressive ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the fifty-bed, \$100,000.00 hospital.



**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL — 1924**

It is interesting to note that a box was placed in the space behind the cornerstone which contains papers bearing the following information: Names of reigning sovereigns, dominion and provincial premiers, lieutenant governor of Alberta, Archbishop O'Leary. Father Harrington and other clergy present, Camrose mayor and councillors, thirty-six members of the Confirmation class of the previous Sunday, the architect and members of the construction company, date the building was started and other such pertinent information; copies of the latest issues of the Camrose Canadian, Edmonton Journal, Catholic Register and Eganville Reader, and coins of the realm. There was in addition, a bottle containing the history of the Sisters of Providence community. The following day, October 24th, 1924, His Grace blessed and officially opened St. Mary's Hospital, a hospital to serve the people of Camrose and area, regardless of race, creed or colour.

The first Sisters named to staff St. Mary's Hospital were:

Sister Mary Clotilda, Brady  
Sister Mary Matilda, Marshall  
Sister Mary Cleophas, Raby  
Sister Mary Emerita, Barry  
Sister Mary Gerald, Murphy  
Sister Mary Alban, Hawkins.



**SISTER MARY CLOTILDA  
Superior 1924 - 1930**



**SISTER MARY MATILDA**  
Pioneer



**SISTER MARY CLEOPHAS**  
Pioneer



**SISTER MARY EMERITA**  
Pioneer



**SISTER MARY GERALD**  
Pioneer



**SISTER MARY ALBAN**  
Pioneer

The records of those early days give a glimmer of insight to the ups and downs, the sunshine and the shadow of the pioneer work necessarily attendant on such an undertaking. The Sisters had to be prepared to meet any and every emergency and this included the financial ones. Like Abraham Lincoln, they frequently were forced to go on their knees because there was nowhere else to go. Their deep faith, their selfless love, supported by a lively sense of humor kept them afloat.

The interior of the hospital was not entirely completed when the Sisters arrived. Materials were limited. The Sisters unpacked boxes of furniture and supplies, and tried to place each object as they more or less skillfully picked their steps among busy workmen of all trades. The activity resembled a continuous obstacle race.

Daily attendance at Mass, which adds so much to the spiritual life of each one, was difficult because of distance and weather. Winter came early that year. So it was a real joy when Father Harrington announced in the church that on Sunday, November 12th, there would be Mass in the hospital chapel. Not only the Sisters benefited by this service, but any of the staff who wished to attend, as well as town people who wanted an early mass. The coming of a priest, a semi-patient, helped solve the weekly problem. In

December, Father Loranger from Three Rivers, P.Q., arrived to see what Alberta could do for TB patients. Father's health improved to the extent that he was able to take on the duties of a chaplain. This was a real boon for all concerned.

When Father Loranger regained his health and was able to do parish work, before leaving St. Mary's, he wrote the following: "A priest, Father Sebastian Loranger, was brought up to life again by the care and generosity of Sister Mary Clotilda and the other Sisters of St. Mary's Hospital, and given to the western missions. (December 1924 - July 1926). Thanks. Father Loranger" It is interesting to note that this priest, who later was named a Domestic Prelate, carried on his priestly work for well over forty years, mostly in the area of Lac la Biche, Alberta.

The weather that fall, as has been mentioned, was at times very severe. The snow was so deep that the doctors were forced to make visits on foot. Trains were storm-bound. Added to this, the temperature dropped to 54° below zero, and the laundry pipes burst. Another expense! Some disillusioned Sister wrote in the records at this time, "What's so glorious about Alberta weather?" But life went on, sometimes grimly perhaps, but on the whole, happily.





**FIRST CHAPEL 1924**

Another problem was lack of water. Drinking water was obtained from artesian wells. Twice a week, a truck containing a huge tank of well water, came to the hospital and, by means of a hose passed through a kitchen window, filled large containers that were similar to milk cans. For people who were accustomed to having clear, cold drinking water whenever they wanted it, this proved a hardship at first. Water for washing was also limited. Frequently a call would come from the town, advising the Sisters that the water would be turned off for a period of time. This water, particularly when it came through the hot water taps, had a peculiar weedy odor, but all this was remedied a few years later. According to "The Golden Trail", published by the Camrose Canadian in 1955, "Calgary Power Company decided to deepen the natural outlet leading from the southwest corner of Miquelon Lakes to draw the water into Stoney Creek and the reservoirs of Camrose and thus provide an additional supply of water for the town. This was in the twenties." Stoney Creek was dammed up to make

the beautiful Mirror Lake which is easily viewed from the hospital. The water was used firstly for the steam engines, later for cooling water for a power plant and later still, was used for drinking water in the taps. It was not too palatable but had the reassuring name of 'pasteurized water'. At the present time the water is taken from Dried Meat Lake on the Battle River, filtered through an aquafer, and piped ten miles up to the city. Many people in the area can recall those early and difficult days when the possession of cool, clear water was treasure.

Although it is questionable if anyone heard them grumble, the Sisters' sleeping apartments were painfully crowded. The superior slept in a small room on the second floor near the office, in order to be easily available. She used the common bathroom. The other five Sisters slept on the third floor in one large room that had been sectioned off into six parts — a small bathroom and five sleeping cubicles. These were separated by white curtains which extended up about

six feet from the floor. Each cubicle or 'cell' was of a size to accommodate a small cot-like bed, a washstand, a plain chair and a trunk. There was a general cupboard and the Sisters' simple wardrobe was easily adapted to fit the space. The dorm had only one light and it was attached to the ceiling. Those who read or sewed before retiring, did so by candlelight. When the nurse on night duty wanted a particular Sister for any special reason, she would open the door ever so quietly and whisper the Sister's name ever, ever so softly. Only the heavy sleepers were undisturbed. In the daytime, little talking was done in the 'dorm' out of consideration for the night Sister who would be getting her rest there. But those who talked in their sleep, those who snored or maybe even ground their teeth, were not so restricted. The previous day's work was usually a preventative for insomnia.

From the beginning there were four doctors on the staff — Dr. P. F. Smith, who later gave two sons and later still, a grandson, all of sterling worth, to serve the hospital; Dr. F. A. Nordbye, who, with Dr. Smith, proved a pillar of support and encouragement; Dr. W. H. Craig, who liked to tell that he taught school just long enough to be able to finance his way to something more worthwhile; and Dr. W. V. Lamb, who later became the first chairman of the medical staff.

Immediately after the blessing and official opening of the hospital, a public meeting was held to form a Hospital Guild to assist the Sisters. A report states: "Good response was received, and the guild had its first meeting November 3rd with Mrs. U. Cunningham as first chairman of the Board of Directors. Also on the executive were Mr. W. Dalzell, Mr. R. J. Sanders, Mrs. J. Lang, secretary and Mr. W. V. (Dr.) Lamb as treasurer. Later, the Guild did much in helping to procure an x-ray machine for the hospital.



**DR. F. A. NORDBYE**  
1924-1932 — Pioneer Doctor



**DR. W. H. CRAIG**  
1938 — Pioneer Doctor



**DR. P. F. SMITH**  
1924-1949 — Pioneer Doctor



**DR. W. V. LAMB**  
1924-1964

#### **FIRST MEDICAL STAFF MEETING OF ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL — JANUARY 7, 1926**

Present; Drs. Lamb, Smith, Nordbye and Craig. Dr. Lamb in the Chair.

Dr. Lamb being asked to preside, the election of Officers was proceeded with. Moved by Dr. Nordbye, seconded by Dr. Smith that Dr. Lamb be Chairman for the year 1926 of the Medical Staff. Carried. Moved by Dr. Craig, seconded by Dr. Smith that Dr. Nordbye be Secretary. Carried. Appointing of Committees left over for later meeting, to be appointed by the chair.

Members were requested to consider most suitable date for holding Staff Meetings and to discuss same at next meeting.

Staff was reminded that it was most desirable that case records should be kept up to date and completed as soon as patient was discharged.

Cases were not discussed at this time, but Drs. Nordbye and Smith were requested to deal with anything of interest at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

**Secretary, F. A. Nordbye.**



**1964 MEDICAL STAFF**

Back Row (left to right) Dr. J.R. Weir, Dr. J.H. Young, Dr. C.H. Smith,  
Dr. R.D. Reikie, Dr. H.F. MacInnis,  
Dr. A.D. Peterson, Dr. D.B. Baker,  
Dr. F.M. Smith, Dr. D.J. Murray

# American College of Surgeons

40 EAST ERIE STREET

CHICAGO

FRANKLIN H. MARTIN, M.D.  
DIRECTOR GENERAL

October 9, 1931

Sister Mary Pulcheria, Superior,  
St. Mary's Hospital,  
Camrose, Alberta, Canada.

My dear Sister Mary Pulcheria:

We have pleasure in informing you that your hospital has been awarded Full Approval by the American College of Surgeons for the year 1931.

Approval is given from year to year to the hospitals that fully comply with the requirements as laid down in the Minimum Standard.

We hope the management and medical staff of your hospital will continue to maintain high standards of service in the care of the patient.

Assuring you of our interest and cooperation, I am

Yours very truly,

*Franklin H. Martin*

Director General.



On November 19th there was a Civic Opening. It was marked by the foundation of a Training School for Nurses under the capable and devoted direction of Sister Mary Alban. The first two girls to enter the class were the Gronberg twins, Marie and Amelia. They were joined later by Misses Kathleen Bosley, Flossie Kellington, and Edna Lyseng.

The staff was increased. Sister Mary Boniface, was given charge of the office; Sisters Mary Mercy and Oswald with a Miss Green, R.N., came for hospital duty.

The first patient was admitted the evening of November 12th. Dr. Craig had an emergency case for the operating room. Mrs. Kremin of Ohaton had a ruptured appendix; Dr. Smith gave the anaesthetic, Dr. Craig operated; Sister Mary Mercy assisted, while Sister Mary Alban and Miss Green circulated. Sister Mary Emerita went on special duty with the patient for as long as this service was required.

The following day, three patients were admitted, Mrs. Francoeur, Mrs. Tate and Mrs. Anna McDonald; two of them for surgery. So Sister Mary Oswald went on night duty. From then on, patients came and went.

About this time a very capable orderly in the person of Mr. Emile Couture from Moose Jaw, joined the staff.

The nursery was replete with six bassinets. Dr. Nordbye brought in the first maternity case. Twin girls were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kringen on November 16th, but only one baby survived. It wasn't long before more bassinets were added to the nursery. The bright, warm, delightful spot did a thriving business.

The first Christmas passed quickly and uneventfully. No doubt there were lonely moments spent by some of the staff who were hundreds of miles from home, but there was peace and satisfaction too, in the realization that the ground beneath their feet, in the work they had undertaken, was feeling quite solid.

Early in January 1925 the minor operating room was opened and Dr. Smith was the first to make use of it.

An early report states: "From the very beginning the Sisters realized the necessity and advantage of a well-organized Medical Staff. The first medical meeting was held on January 12th. There were four doctors on the Medical Staff. Officers were elected and agenda for the meetings drawn up, which included case studies. Rules and regulations governing the Medical Staff were presented and accepted. In the year 1927 the hospital received conditional approval by the College of Physicians and Surgeons. It was interesting to note that two doctors from Winnipeg brought a travelling clinic to Camrose around this time. In 1930 the Medical Staff was increased by two members, making a total of six doctors, all active members. After the inspection in 1931, the hospital received full approval by the American College of Surgeons."

By July of 1925 there were twenty-six patients in the hospital, seven student nurses and two graduates — Miss Marguerite McIlroy and Miss Bruder. The little hospital buzzed quietly with activity. Many interested visitors came, marvelling at the work that had been accomplished in so short a time.

Sister Mary Demetria came early in September from Brockville, Ontario, to replace Sister Mary Oswald in the operating room. Sister was noticeably lonely from the first day, although she uttered no complaint. Others forgot their personal worries in an effort to cheer her. This went on for weeks and weeks. It was during the year that the community in Kingston was asked to open a home in Edmonton for the aged and the chronically ill. The Whyte Block in South Edmonton was offered as a place to begin the work. After much consideration the community refused to accept the offer. When the Sisters were told of this decision they expressed their disappointment in varying degrees. But Sister Mary Demetria amazed all by expressing considerable indignation. "What a shame!" she declared with spirit. "The community doesn't realize the golden opportunity they are passing up!" This sudden outburst from the 'lonely one' startled everyone even Sister herself. They stared at the speaker in silent amazement for a moment. A sudden outburst of laughter followed in which Sister herself joined. From then on Sister Mary Demetria was a true westerner.

Mr. Mullin, a handyman, who had come from the House of Providence in Kingston, came out to Camrose to give a helping hand. He was a welcome asset. But his voluntary exile proved too much for him. When he saw the heavy snowfall so early in October he declared. "Look at that! Wouldya! Look at that! You'd never see the like o'that in the east now wouldya? No, ya wouldn't!" Then, in disgust, he turned from the window and protested with deep feelings, "There's a different God out here!" Needless to say, Mr. Mullin, who really was a treasure to the hospital, returned east at the earliest opportunity.

People showed an increasing appreciation for the services rendered by the hospital. One day a fourteen-year-old boy, suffering from peritonitis, was brought in from the country. An emergency operation was performed but the boy died. The grieving father spoke to the Sister in the office: "Sister," he said, so sincerely, "this hospital is a godsend. It didn't save my boy but it will save many others. It is truly a godsend to us." How soon he experienced the truth of his words! Two weeks later, his sixteen-year-old son was brought into the hospital in the same condition as the younger son, but, this time an operation proved quite successful.

Some people were unfamiliar with nuns and somewhat wary of them. One day a commercial traveller with his wife, was en route to Edmonton where their baby was hospitalized. An accident occurred near Camrose in which the wife was injured. She was brought into emergency. The husband came into the office. He was almost aggressive! He made it

clear that he didn't want his wife in St. Mary's Hospital. He would take her to an Edmonton hospital. But the doctors warned him it would be most inadvisable. As he stood growling, the Gronberg twins in uniform passed by. He watched as they walked down the hall together and disappeared around the corner. Then he demanded, "How long do they have to stay here before they will be dressed like you?" Sister laughed heartily as she assured him, "Those girls will never be dressed like me. They are the daughters of a Lutheran minister." He stared a moment, then grinned sheepishly as he grunted, "Oh!" This gentleman's wife was a patient for several days, and it's doubtful if St. Mary's ever had a more friendly visitor in the hospital than that salesman from Ohaton. He even sought and obtained permission to have the baby transferred to St. Mary's. After both patients had returned home, the gentleman would make a "pop call" when he was in the area. So, the hospital again proved a godsend, but in a different way.

In the fall of 1925 eight students came to board at the hospital while attending Normal School across the way. It is interesting to note that one of them, Kathleen Therrien, later became Elementary Supervisor of the Edmonton Catholic School System, a position she filled capably until her retirement in 1972.

In July of 1926 the Norwegians held their first celebration in Canada. About 7,000 attended. St. Mary's provided an emergency and rest room for them on the hospital grounds.

The following month, Sister Mary Roberta came

to take charge of the business office, a position she filled expertly for ten years. Sister endeared herself to all by her adroitness in handling both business and people.

Christmas that year saw much more gay festivity than had the previous one due in part, no doubt, to the increase in staff and added conveniences.

Early in the Fall of 1927 tragedy struck the family of Dr. and Mrs. Nordbye when their only little girl contracted infantile paralysis. Doctors and nurses exerted every effort to save little Dorothy's life, but she died within forty-eight hours. The hospital staff, people of the town and of the whole area, mourned with the bereaved family. During the funeral service friends who were close to the family, could hear the doctor repeat over and over in a whisper, "Good-bye, little sweetheart, good-bye," and it made an unforgettable impact on them. The doctor's health was noticeably affected. He was eventually admitted to St. Mary's where he died less than five years after his "little sweetheart". Only God knows the good that Dr. Nordbye accomplished during his association with the hospital, and, in particular, among the poor.

In October the first class of nurses graduated. It was an occasion for great celebration. Exercises were held in the Normal School auditorium. Miss Flossie Kellington was presented with a medal for receiving the highest marks. The other nurses graduating were Kathleen Bosley, Amelia Gronberg, Edna Lyseng, Marie Gronberg.



**FIRST GRADUATION — 1927 — Back row [left to right], Mildred Craig, Nurse Amelia Gronberg, Nurse Edna B. Lyseng, Nurse Marie Gronberg, Helen Steinberg. Front row [left to right], Nurse K. Bosley, Elizabeth Twomey, Margaret McDonald, Teresa Stenberg, Margaret Smith, Jane Young, Nurse Flossie Kellington.**

The first Mass in the new St. Francis Xavier Church was celebrated early in December. Sister Mary Cleophas made two beautiful cribs, one for the church and one for the hospital chapel. The making of the hospital crib was the beginning of a practice that has continued to the present day. Awards have been received by the hospital for the beautiful outdoor nativity scenes displayed each year. Everyone was busier than in the previous year with decorating, entertainments and general festivities. The beauty of the midnight Mass liturgy was enhanced by the violin selections of Miss Litva and Coates, two nurses in training.

The Sisters found relaxation in very simple but satisfying diversions. It was imperative that they spend some time away from the hospital. One of their favorite walks was to the cemetery about a quarter of a mile beyond the hospital. Often they presented an amusing spectacle if only to each other, as they sauntered along to their chosen 'retreat', each one carrying something for a picnic they hoped to enjoy. At other times, they would just go over the fence to the woods near the hospital where Rosary Cottage now stands.

From time to time kind friends like Mr. U. Cunningham, Mrs. Charlie Duggan, Mr. and Mr. Dennis Twomey, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Twomey, Mrs. M. Burgar and Mrs. Colville, to mention a few, took the Sisters sightseeing to Lake Miquelon, Duhamel, Dittburner's Fox Farm and other places of interest. When possible the Sisters visited the sick in their homes.

Then, there were conventions, lectures, retreats, etc., that took them completely away from the atmosphere of the hospital for a few days. Begging was done, too, but it carried the more dignified name of collecting. Each Fall the Sisters went around soliciting help, in cash or in kind, to help keep the hospital in operation. This was not an enviable task, although the people were always generous and gracious. Visitors at the hospital were a welcome diversion. How joyfully they welcomed the first two just after the hospital was opened — Sisters Mary Isabel and Oswald, who were returning from Galahad where they had been collecting for Providence Hospital, Daysland.

All this variety of interests served an important purpose. It enabled the Sisters to give much better service to their patients, the sole reason for the hospital's existence.

Mother Mary Clement, Superior General, visited St. Mary's Hospital in April 1930. Mother expressed her joy and delight at the work that was being done, and the beautiful spirit pervading through the hospital.

It was about this time that the community was asked to staff the new hospital in Jasper, Alberta. It was quite impossible as the Sisters realized, but Sister Mary Gerald summed up their disappointment with her usual dry wit. "What a pity." Sister lamented, in

mock grief, "We could have hung our clothesline from a mountain peak to the hospital."

Sister Mary Clotilda left Camrose during the Summer of 1930. It must have been a source of comfort and satisfaction to Sister, who had witnessed the birth pangs of the hospital, and guided its early infant days, to know it was well on the way to adulthood. Sister Mary Clotilda who was a niece of Sister M. Angel Guardian, proved she possessed many of the characteristics of this resolute pioneering nun.

About this time, from Kingston, came a diminutive little Irish Sister who, as a young lady, had taught music and drama in a Boarding School in Dublin, Ireland. Sister Mary Pius, measured about four feet, six inches and wore child-size clothing. Her tiny shoes intrigued many. Those who were skeptical of the existence of leprachauns might well question their belief in those "little people" once they had seen Sister in action. What a way she had with children! She was sent to Camrose as organist in St. Francis Xavier Church, and to use her talents whenever and wherever they were needed. During her brief stay, Sister accomplished much, particularly with the children. But the severe weather and deep snow would threaten the survival of any leprachaun and Sister was forced to return East rather than risk being buried in snow which was well beyond her depth. Those who were fortunate enough to profit by the guidance of the little leprachaun-Sister have testified to this fact by their own demonstrations.

Joe Staszko, as a lad of seventeen, came to work at St. Mary's. Joe's English was somewhat limited. He was gradually trained in orderly work. Incidentally, since the time Joe joined the staff there has always been a member of the Staszko family — seven in all — working at the hospital. Joe's sister Minnie, is still on the staff. Great was the excitement when Joe was permitted to vote for the first time. It was 1935, and he, like many others, was captivated by the possibility of receiving twenty-five dollars per month, if Social Credit came into power, a promise reportedly made by the Party. Much good-natured bantering went on between opposing parties among the staff. Some wavered, but Joe remained a staunch devotee of Social Credit. Sister Mary Roberta warned him, "Joe was torn between two loyalties. 'Sister,' he pleaded, 'you will be glad to yourself if Sociable Credit gets in! You will be glad to yourself!' Joe was as loyal to St. Mary's as he was to his 'Sociable Credit.' His sudden passing in 1952 left a void that has been difficult to fill. 'Hospital Joe,' as he was affectionately called, has been sadly missed and will long be remembered. The Camrose Canadian paid him a beautiful tribute after the large funeral, part of which is as follows: "Hospital Joe was a quiet, reserved individual who served faithfully as orderly in St. Mary's Hospital for over twenty years. Many of his tasks were menial and messy but, to him, St. Mary's was, to all intents and purposes, his very own hospital. . . . It would be hard for Joe to comprehend the great tribute the public paid to him. He did not build a big bridge. He did not design a great cathedral nor compose an undying symphony, but he did the job that was assigned to him without fuss or feather, day by day and he served the people well." Faithful Joe Staszko!

It was not long before the hospital's service extended well beyond Camrose. The early records state that Dr. Jackson motored forty-five miles from Donalda to perform a major operation. Various clinics were held from time to time and doctors from outlying districts were able to profit by them. A very helpful one, helpful to many, was conducted by Dr. Wright, a bone specialist and Dr. MacLarty, a specialist in mental diseases. The great Dr. Levy (Marshall) delivered a lecture on eye, ear, nose and throat which was particularly valuable.

Frequently, though, inclement weather prevented doctors from surrounding places attending. The side roads particularly, could become impassable in a matter of hours as any old timer in this area knows. Temperatures drop very suddenly. Someone, speaking of Alberta weather, remarked, "We can have the four seasons in twenty-four hours."

Alertness was necessary at each moment of the day and night. One morning at 6:30 when Sister Mary Cleophas was in the kitchen, she was startled by a banging and a grunting which came from the dumb waiter. Sister called Hans, the engineer, and Joe. It was discovered that a patient who was in the hospital under observation, had smelled coffee, of which he was very fond. He traced the odour and found it came through the dumb waiter on third floor. Wishing to reach the source he climbed into the shaft and slid down the cable, only to find he was a prisoner on top of the waiter. Hans and Joe gradually raised the waiter inch by inch, apprehensive that the cable might snap. When it reached third floor the patient, with the help of the men, stepped out. "Thanks!" he said and returned to his room, leaving the two men with mingled feelings of relief, annoyance and amusement.

An announcement was made that the Normal School across from the hospital would be permanently closed in June, 1932. There was consternation and keen displeasure among the citizens, particularly among the business people. The hospital, too, would be somewhat affected. Boarders occupied any vacant rooms and this was a needed source of income. The auditorium was available for Nurses' Graduation Exercises. Then, too, from time to time Miss Hastie, who taught at the Normal School, gave lectures to the nurses in dietetics. A delegation of concerned citizens, seventy-five carloads, went to Edmonton to interview the premier. They won their point, and the Normal School continued to serve Camrose until World War II, when it was taken over by the Department of National Defence as a basic training centre for infantry recruits. Barracks soon appeared on the adjacent fair grounds and the place resembled a large military camp. The main building was occupied by the personnel. Harmonious relationships existed between the hospital and the Camp personnel due, in part, no doubt to the fact that Dr. Lamb, who had been a Major in World War I, was in charge of the Medical Department. Dr. Lamb was well aware of the services that could be rendered by neighboring St. Mary's. In 1947 the Camp was transferred to the Provincial Government and was converted into the first home in Canada to be established for the care of the disoriented. It was given the charming name of Rosehaven. Now, in 1974, four large attractive and

homey cottages have been built on the grounds. The work done at Rosehaven comes under the Department of Health and Social Development. It includes people needing special care though not necessarily senile. Congenial relationships between Rosehaven and St. Mary's are stronger than ever before.

There is a continual interplay of services between the two institutions. With Bethany they share the same pharmacist. It is interesting to see the same security guard patrolling the grounds and property of both places. Groundsmen, and other specialists in maintenance, derive the benefit of the highly-trained and qualified personnel at Rosehaven. Optimum use is being made by both institutions of such services as snow removal and upholstery. So, for the fifty years of the Hospital's existence, there has prevailed a spirit of mutual assistance appreciated by all concerned and which, it is hoped, will continue to grow in the days to come.

The depression hit with all its grim force during the early Thirties. Illness continued, and so did expenses, and the hospital was needed as much or more than ever. Increasing numbers of patients were unable to pay though many struggled to clear their accounts in garden produce and farm products. But the hospital continued to exist. One old timer, speaking about those dire days, commented, "I'm sure the Sisters paid for the needy patients out of their own salaries." It was a beautiful thought but, in those days, no sister received a salary.

Miss Clara Albers, one of St. Mary's graduates, came to take charge of maternity. It was comforting and gratifying to have on the staff one of their very own who had been trained by them; one who had proved herself a very solid, capable and devoted young nurse, with the efficiency necessary for such a responsible position. Miss Albers, with Miss Mary McLeod, another St. Mary's graduate and a dedicated young nurse, went overseas in World War II.

A wave of excitement went through St. Mary's when Dr. P. F. Smith's son, Dr. F. M. Smith, became a member of the staff in 1936. Dr. "Mac", as he has affectionately been called over the years, was the winner of two medals, the Mewburn Memorial Gold Medal in surgery and the Moshier Memorial Gold Medal for the highest standing in medicine. How justifiably proud was his father, and the hospital staff shared in his happiness and joy.

Dr. Bernard Mooney, a radiologist in Edmonton, came to St. Mary's once a month to read special X-ray plates. The doctor usually managed to bring some of the Edmonton Sisters with him, to visit in the hospital for the few hours he was working. Later, Dr. Mooney was replaced by Dr. Irvine who was always accompanied by a technician, Mr. Flower. Sister Mary Gerald, who served the two men a lunch asked, "Will you have tea or coffee, Mr. . . er . . ah . . Blossom?" No one enjoyed the laughter that followed more than Sister herself.

From time to time, inspectors came from Edmonton to observe and interview the nurses and to



examine their residence. It was a gratifying experience, but the most rewarding was when in 1933 St. Mary's for the second time won full accreditation. The hospital was able to maintain the high standard demanded until the war years, when the medical staff was necessarily depleted, leaving the major load of patients to one doctor. After the war years the hospital was not adequate to serve the population of town and district until the new wing was opened in 1949. A quote from the records states:

To meet the standards for accreditation involves facilities, personnel, and procedures predicated upon an efficient organization, progressive management and competent personnel imbued with a scientific and humanitarian spirit, and must have an organized, competent and ethical staff. When an institution adopts and successfully applies the above standards which express the high standards of modern medical and hospital practice, it is known as an Accredited Hospital. St. Mary's has served the City and district since 1924, a new wing being added in 1949 bringing the bed capacity to one hundred and seventeen adult beds and eighteen bassinets. The staff of St. Mary's is composed of Sister Mary Bonaventure, Administrator, Sister Mary Gerald, Assistant, Sister Mary Adele, Business Manager, and seven Sister Supervisors, a Medical Staff of eight doctors, Dr. F. M. Smith, C. H. Smith, A. L. Fjordbotten, J. H. Young, H. F. MacInnis, R. D. Reikie, W. J. Siwak, D. B. Baker, and one hundred personnel including nursing, clerical, technicians, diatetics, domestic, maintenance and laundry personnel. Prior to this survey only fourteen of the ninety-eight hospitals of Alberta had been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation.

St. Mary's has been able to hold this coveted award until the present day.

St. Mary's Hospital and staff, as well as the community at large was shocked and plunged into grief by the sudden death of Sister Mary Delphine. Sister who had come on the staff in 1926 had endeared herself to all. One day Rod Burgar showed the Sisters through his Funeral Parlours. Sister was fascinated by the variety of caskets, and amused the others by trying to select one small enough for herself. It was not too long afterwards that Sister Mary Delphine was placed in one of those same caskets. It required time for some of the staff members to recover from the shock and grief of Sister's passing.

Sister Mary Gervase came to replace Sister Mary Delphine. Sister has given over thirty of the best years of her life serving generously and efficiently the sick in St. Mary's.

The School of Nursing established in 1924 was given final approval by the Senate in 1927 and continued the training, with high standards, until 1935. But, because there were only fifty beds, it did not meet the standards established for Schools of Nursing at that date and was closed by those in charge at the time, with the intention of reopening at a later date. This, however, was never done.

When the debt on the hospital was finally cleared the Sisters made several attempts to secure the deed of the property. Each time, for one reason or another, they were forced to wait. But one day in February 1936, Sister Mary Roberta decided she would be "put off" no longer. She and Sister Mary Alban went to the Town Hall and requested the deed. They were told there would be a little delay. Would they mind waiting? "We have been waiting now quite some time," Sister replied with her sweetest smile and a twinkle in her eye, "So we've decided to wait right here until we get it." Needless to say, the two Sisters left shortly, chuckling, and the happy possessors of the coveted deed.

A report states: "In 1936, 4,454 patients were cared for of which 426 were newborn babies, 29,091 made up the total patient days." The little hospital was feeling growing pains and these increased steadily. Eighteen bassinets were, at times, insufficient. Every available space was used to accommodate patients.

One evening, about eight o'clock, nine people, who had been at a wedding reception, were brought in, suffering in varying degrees from food poisoning. All available help was alerted. Beds were put up hastily here, there, everywhere. Through the cooperation of everyone, most of the patients were able to leave the hospital next day. But the walls groaned for some hours.

Later a bus tipped over near Camrose. The bus driver, who was in a state of shock, kept repeating, "Fourteen passengers! A girl with a blue suit!" The helping crew had found only twelve passengers. A further search discovered a man under the luggage. But there was no "girl with a blue suit." Sometime later she was found walking along the road a few miles farther on and in a somewhat dazed condition. At this time, too, the hospital felt the pressure of inadequacy.

Accommodation was found for the nurses in the Town. The Nurses' residence, a frame house situated behind the Normal School, was moved to the hospital property and placed on the south east corner near the main building. The Sisters moved to the residence, leaving their 'dorm' for a ward. This eased some of the pressure. After the hospital was enlarged the residence was sold and removed from the property.



At the age of eighty-five Father Beillevaire retired from his parish in Duhamel and came to spend his last days at St. Mary's where he died two months later on March 18th, 1937. Father at his own request, received Holy Communion before mass on that day instead of after, as was customary. Before mass was over, Father had lapsed into unconsciousness. During his agony he appeared to be offering mass, turning the pages of the missal and holding his hands as though he were at the offertory. So passed one of God's humble priests and a truly noble gentleman, who did his duty as he saw it, in whose life human respect played no part. As the loving influence Father Beillevaire exerted on the people of the district had a great bearing on the Sisters of Providence extending their work for the relief of suffering in Camrose and area, we may well believe that his influence with His Master is even greater, and that his prayers have helped St. Mary's reach its golden milestone. May he continue his loving solicitude in the days ahead.

September 3, 1939, marked the beginning of World War II which greatly reduced in numbers the competent help in St. Mary's. But the little hospital limped along, the remaining staff trying to do their extra bit that the welfare of the people at home might not suffer unduly.

"Expert finds doctors, hospital wanting in care of 'whole man'" was a heading in a fairly recent issue of The Edmonton Journal. Dr. J. C. Johnston, pointed out several areas where this lack is evident. Sometimes a patient's mental anguish can seriously affect his physical condition and that of his family. The personal touch is most important. A case in point: A lady who was a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, Edmonton, in the late sixties, related to a friend her first encounter with St. Mary's Hospital.

"I was born in Germany" she said, "and came to Canada with my parents, two younger brothers and a sister, when I was seventeen years old. We settled on a farm near Hay Lakes. I came to Edmonton and found work. My father was seriously injured in an accident when a wagon passed over his chest and he was rushed to St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose. We were all summoned to his bedside. The doctors, who were called in on the case, agreed there was no hope of his recovery. As I stood there, looking down at that dear face, my dazed mind trying to accept the verdict, one of the Sisters drew me aside and whispered, "The doctors haven't the last word! While there's life, there's hope." These words were a source of great comfort to me in the days that followed, when I saw the truth of them as my father's condition steadily improved. How often I blessed the Sister who had been inspired to say those words of kind encouragement to me. Little did either of us think then that I would one day have two daughters in the same Community; that one of them, my Rosemarie, would be a nurse in St. Mary's Hospital." Sister Mary Amable (Rosemarie Bokenfohr) was supervisor of the operating room from 1960 until she went to the Missions in Guatemala in 1967.

To help offset this type of suffering the organization known as Pastoral Care was introduced in 1971. It is open to all ordained clergymen of

Camrose who are eligible to belong to the team of pastoral visitors. But it is understood that the spiritual care of patients and others is the concern of everyone, not just of the clergy. Regular meetings are held in the form of seminars, and such topics as "The Shock of Hospitalization" are discussed from a practical and experiential viewpoint.

On June 5, 1944, after a brief illness, Sister Mary Pulcheria, the second superior of St. Mary's, passed to her eternal reward. Sister had given generously and graciously fourteen years of service to the people of Camrose.

In January, 1946, the staff of St. Mary's Hospital was considerably strengthened by the additional services of Dr. C. H. Smith, another son of Dr. P. F. Smith. Dr. "Hamp" as he was called to distinguish him from his brother, Dr. Mac, served for some time in the Canadian Air Force. When his services there were no longer required, Dr. Hamp became a welcome asset to St. Mary's, and has remained so for nearly thirty years.

The annals state: "On May 16th, 1945, the Town of Camrose was notified that St. Mary's Hospital proposed to build a fifty-bed addition." This was welcome news particularly for those who had long realized the pressing need for expansion. But it was 1949, the year of St. Mary's Silver Jubilee, before the addition became a reality. Mr. H. G. MacDonald was given the contract. All Department Heads were asked for suggestions. On July 14, 1947, feast of St. Bonaventure (Good venture or undertaking) construction was begun.

In view of the rapidly growing Town and the increasing numbers of houses being built, it was thought advisable to secure more property around the hospital. A letter was written to the Town Secretary, requesting Lots 17, 18, 19 and Block 7. These were sold to the hospital for the sum of One Dollar. Mr. Frank Mohler donated Lot 15 in the same block.

The construction progressed satisfactorily and, on April 20, 1949, the magnificent and substantial new addition, the total cost of which was \$400,000, was officially opened with solemnity and grandeur, accompanied by deep feelings of gratitude. The new fifty-bed wing was a perfect match for the former fifty-bed, \$100,000 hospital opened in 1924.

The records state: "Seven doctors, Drs. J. D. Neville, F. M. Smith, C. H. Smith, H. F. MacInnis, A. L. Fjordbotten, J. H. Young and D. Hope-Gill served the hospital, while an eighth, Dr. P. F. Smith, acts in honorary capacity. Dr. Smith was among those who offered congratulations, and there was a tender light in his eyes as he viewed with pride a hospital whose growth he had watched for more than two decades," and to this might well be added, a hospital to whose service he has proudly given two sons.

Mr. Rees Hugh, past president of the Board of Trade, acted as chairman on the occasion of the formal opening. In his address, Mr. Hugh paid tribute to the Sisters of Providence, to Father Beillevaire of sainted memory, to Dr. P. F. Smith and to Rev. Dean



**HOSPITAL — 1924**



**Sister Mary Demetria, the "lonely one" of 1925, rejoicing in the prospects of an addition, 1949**

Harrington. Mr. Hugh drew attention to the cost of the new wing as compared with the original building, pointing out that, with the equipment, the total expenditure amounted to well over \$500,000, and that, with this disbursement, the hospital now provided the people of Camrose and district with adequate facilities of the most modern kind.

The following appeared in the Camrose Canadian on the occasion of the official opening of the new wing:

**A GRAND INSTITUTION** - The Camrose public is today paying tribute to one grand organization, the St. Mary's Hospital. The buildings,

both the old and new sections, have been designed and erected with an unusual degree of permanence and utility in mind. But the building and equipment alone are not enough to establish such an institution in the hearts of the people whom it serves. It still requires that vital human element that has been so graciously introduced into St. Mary's Hospital by the Sisters themselves. The healing of the human body and the human mind is a very intimate profession. It is vital that the healing profession be properly safeguarded so that it does not get out of bounds to those who are worthy to serve in it. Camrose is very fortunate in this respect. We congratulate the Sisters on their new building. It gives to Camrose the air of a real city. But it is to their understanding heart that we make our deepest bow!

The opening of the new addition to St. Mary's Hospital will go down in the history of Camrose as one of its great occasions. Patients, nurses and doctors will be witness to that fact. Medical, surgical, nursing, and other equipment in St. Mary's is now considered the very best in the Province. Those in the Medical Profession say it is equal to any city hospital, and superior to most smaller institutions. His Excellency, Archbishop MacDonald, spoke of the pleasure he received coming to Camrose, and congratulated the community on the addition to St. Mary's. He felt that the community was just as responsible as anyone else

in making the addition possible; and also in his opinion, Dr. P. F. Smith deserved considerable credit. Dr. P. F. Smith praised the Sisters of St. Mary's for the work they were doing in the community and cited a few instances of his experience with the hospital since it was first built. Mayor R. H. Hume told how pleased the Town was that the Sisters of Providence saw fit to spend \$500,000 in Camrose to improve the hospital accommodation. Monsignor Lyons of Daysland spoke for the Sisters. He was enthusiastic in his praise and good words for the Sisters, who first came to the Town of Daysland in 1908 and eventually to Camrose. He said St. Mary's was now as modern as 1949. As for the Sisters, he said that silver and gold, honour and fame does not repay them for the charitable work they perform. Dr. J. D. Neville spoke for the Doctors. In his opinion Camrose had one of the finest institutions to be found in any small community in the Province. They had the best of records—their statistical position with regard to infant mortality, maternal mortality and post-operative mortality being up with the very best in the Province. He felt that if he said nothing else then the fact that, "no one has ever sat waiting to be sponsored by someone before being admitted," would surpass all other remarks.

In 1948 the Smith Clinic in the Smith Block came into being with Drs. P. F. Smith and his two sons, Dr. Mac and Dr. Hamp in charge. They were joined by six other doctors. In January 1954 the Clinic was transferred to its present site, a beautiful \$100,000 building, at 4825-51 St. and boasts one of the largest group practices in Alberta. The work of the Clinic is interrelated with that of St. Mary's Hospital.

On July 8, 1949, less than three months after the opening of the new wing, people of Camrose and area were saddened at the passing of Dr. P. F. Smith. A report at the time of his death concluded, "It was generally understood that his rugged manner scarcely concealed his warm heart." One of the pioneer nurses who knew the doctor well and admired him for his solicitude for the poor, explained how tactfully the doctor guided his son, Dr. Mac, along the same path. When Dr. Mac was beginning to practice with his father, one of his duties was to attend to the accounts, which, to him, represented nothing more than people owing money. He showed his father one bill that had been long outstanding. On some pretext, other than collecting, Dr. Smith asked his son to visit the family. The sight of poverty that met the young doctor's eyes, was a greater lesson than could be taught in words. To his father he said simply, "Let's write off that account, Dad." On another occasion a girl lay on the operating table and Dr. Mac remarked on her thin little body. His father explained, in his own way, about the poverty of the family, letting his son know, indirectly, that these people would go without food to pay a bill. Yes, Dr. P. F. Smith deserves great credit for the fine doctors his sons are today. This noble doctor's memory will always be cherished by, not only St. Mary's, but by all who were privileged to really know him.

As mentioned earlier, Miss Maguerite McIlroy was one of the first nurses on the staff, 1924 to 1926. This generous and devoted nurse matched the Sisters in hours of labour. To her, it was all in a day's work if she put in extra time in the emergency after a full

day's duty on the floor, or worked in the operating room after a full night's supervision. Hers was truly a dedicated and loving service. In 1926 Miss McIlroy married Michael McManaman and moved to New Norway, but returned to Camrose after her husband's death in 1946. In 1948 Mrs. McManaman rejoined St. Mary's staff where she remained until her retirement in 1966.

Mrs. McManaman is but one of many faithful staff workers with whom St. Mary's has been blessed over the years. The following lines seem to describe the philosophy of life as lived by these fine people:

Tis not the duty of the day, the race you ought  
to run,  
But just the things you needn't do that earn the  
great "Well Done;"  
The readiness for love to go beyond the single  
mile  
The measure pressed and running o'er, that wins  
the Master's smile.

A report states: "On November 15, 1950, Mrs. R. Byers, President of the Ladies Hospital Guild, presented Sister Superior with a cheque for \$1,000.00, payment for the furnishings in the Children's Ward." Prior to this time, the Hospital Guild had furnished a room in the new wing.

To assist the Sisters in the early pioneering days, the Hospital Guild was established November 3, 1924, less than one month after the official opening. The President, Mrs. U. Cunningham, had a capable working staff on the executive composed of Mrs. W. Dalzell, Mrs. R. Sanders, Mrs. J. Lang and Mrs. W. (Dr.) Lamb. The members of the Guild worked tirelessly to aid both Sisters and patients in every way possible for over twenty years.



Mrs. Ralph Byers

In the middle of the forties the Guild folded up, only to be revived with renewed vigour in 1948, under the capable leadership of one of St. Mary's own graduates, Mrs. Ralph Byers (nee Miss Irene Lotzer). It became officially known as Camrose Hospital Guild. As the organization grew, its work expanded. Only the ingenuity of ladies

like those on the "Ways and Means" committee of the Guild could plan and implement the many devices employed in order to raise funds for their various projects—bazaars, amateur shows, masquerade balls, swimming regatta, fashion shows, spring rummage sales, raffles, teas—to name some of the projects used. At this time, the Guild shared the results of their efforts with Rosehaven and Bethany.



Presidents during the lifetime of Camrose Hospital Guild were: Mrs. R. Byers, Mrs. F. M. (Dr.) Smith, Mrs. A. Hailes, Mrs. C. McLennan, Mrs. K. Hugh, Mrs. S. Bosmans, Mrs. P. Farley, Mrs. D. Johnstone, Mrs. J. Kehoe, Mrs. H. (Dr.) Smith and Mrs. E. Shuman.



#### ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL AUXILIARY — 1961

Pictured above is (left to right) Rita Nyback, Della Patrige, Dorothy Martin, Ann Kehoe, Edith Hitman, Ann Clark, Jean Andreassen, Adele MacInnis.

In 1960 Camrose Hospital Guild ceased to operate for one year, but returned with renewed vitality in 1961 under the title of St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary and under the competent leadership of Mrs. F. (Dr.) MacInnis. In September of that year the sod was turned for the new laundry, and later on in the Sixties, a second addition was added to the hospital. During these years, the Auxiliary proved to be a godsend and has remained so ever since. The records abound with factual evidence concerning the generous efforts of these very devoted ladies. In 1965 the Ladies Auxiliary donated an examining table to St. Mary's which was a very much needed item. A 1969 Report states in Part:

The purpose of St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary is to promote and advance the welfare of St. Mary's Hospital and its patients through interpretation to the public through its service and fund raising. The volunteer services rendered patients are the regular visits of the hospital cart with small items the patients may purchase, and also used magazines and books to read. The cart was taken through the hospital on 117 afternoons in excess of 500 hours of volunteer work. The volunteer hairdressers visited the hospital approximately 35 weeks, with 140 hours. The Baby Gift Shop has knitted baby wear for sale. The Auxiliary has donated \$1,000.00 toward the furnishing of the main lobby, a high chair and a rocker to the children's ward, and with Miss Cecile Tabler furnishing a hair-dressing room.

The report concluded with these inspiring words: "The Auxiliary members feel it is a privilege and an honour to be of service to St. Mary's Hospital and to the community at large."

The presidents who have been leaders of these devoted and dedicated ladies in St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary are: Mrs. F. (Dr.) MacInnis, Mrs. H. Andreassen, Mrs. B. Clarke, Mrs. J. Barr, Mrs. H. Martin, Mrs. R. Byers and Mrs. W. (Dr.) Siwak. The



Mrs. J. A. Barr

president now in office at the time of this Golden Jubilee Celebration is Mrs. J. Barr.

On April 15, 1950, St. Mary's was advised by the Director of Hospital and Medical Services, Provincial Government, that the hospital was placed in Category "B", which is the highest rating attainable until it is

qualified for teaching interns, nurses, and other para-medical groups.

In September of the following year Sister Mary Eugenia, another graduate of St. Mary's, arrived to supervise Maternity. Sister became so proficient as to inspire great confidence in the doctors and others in her ability to direct her unit.

In 1952, a one-room cottage was constructed just over the fence in the bush adjacent to the hospital grounds. It was given the beautiful name of Rosary Cottage. Now the Sisters had a sheltered spot, free from mosquitoes and inclement weather, where they could relax. Later a kitchenette and small dining room were added. Over the years, Rosary Cottage has been used for many events.



1953 was one of the years when a wave of polio passed over, leaving victims in its wake. The Vice-President of the Alberta Provincial Command of the Canadian Legion presented the hospital with a Dry-Pack Heater, a donation from the Legion.

St. Mary's marked thirty years of service in 1954. In the Camrose Canadian there appeared a comprehensive report of the work done in those three decades. A quote, in part, states:

Today this institution has grown from a fifty-bed to a one hundred and two bed hospital. It has had 54,620 persons pass through its portals seeking care; brought 7,070 new lives into the world, and comforted the last hours of 1,308 persons. Only one Sister has seen thirty years of service—Sister Mary Gerald, who arrived in Camrose the evening before the opening ceremonies in 1924.



Prize winning float of 1955, combining 1905 [right] with 1955 [left].

The beautiful float entered by the hospital in Camrose Fair, 1954, was somewhat sensational. Nothing like it had ever been seen before in a Camrose parade. To quote: "It rated top place in most spectators' opinion. Many of the onlookers were impressed with the appearance of the equipment used for 'transfusion'. They should have been for it was the real thing." In 1955 St. Mary's Hospital repeated the float effort of 1954 and took first prize for the best City entry. The pioneer theme had been added to the 1954 design, showing a comparison between 1905 and 1955 hospital services.

Representatives from twelve Alberta Hospital attended a Hospital Disaster Institute held at Camrose, February 14, 1955, under the direction of Alberta Civil Defense, and in cooperation with St. Mary's Hospital. Hospitals represented were from Westlock, Vegreville, Banff, Pincher Creek, Wainwright, Brooks, Wetaskiwin, Olds, High Prairie, Killam and Daysland. The Institute, which was officially opened by His Worship, Mayor R. H. Hume of Camrose, was held under the chairmanship of Dr. W. Bramley-Moore, Chairman of the Alberta Civil Defence H. Q. Health Committee. Dr. K. C. Charron, Chief of the Federal Health Planning Group, Ottawa, attended. There was an actual demonstration of the transfer of twenty-five casualties (simulated) by ambulance to St. Mary's Hospital. At the hospital, the casualties were received and sorted, and the hospital staff went through the routine of administering to, and then transporting the casualties to the rooms assigned them. Institute delegates were then taken on a hospital tour, and were shown various units for treatment such as burn, shock, etc.

Camrose Disaster Services was organized sometime previous to 1955. The City had always considered itself as a possible centre for evacuees. But, in what has been called "Gas Cloud Operation" the situation was reversed. In the fall of 1973, when a gas well near New Norway went out of control and

threatened the health and very lives of all living things for miles around, Camrose Disaster Services adjusted to meet this new challenge.

St. Mary's Hospital has, since 1955, its own Hospital Disaster Plan, and a review of the program is implemented periodically through simulated disaster exercises. By this means, its weaknesses and strengths are noted. At a moment's notice, it goes into action. Word is spread by code over the P.A. to all the staff, and each knows what to do immediately. From time to time car, bus or other accident, has put this organization to the test and never has it been found wanting. During the "Gas Cloud Operation" in 1973, with the R.C.M.P. to keep them advised, everything was organized should evacuation be necessary. Happily, much of the anxiety was unwarranted. People, suffering from respiratory afflictions, were advised to present themselves to Emergency if they had reason for concern. Ten persons did so, but no one needed to be admitted as a patient. In the Spring of 1974, when a train was derailed due to the floods, word was received that fifteen passengers were being brought into Emergency. In an incredibly short time, fifteen stretchers appeared near the Emergency entrance and the necessary staff prepared for action.

Incidentally, St. Mary's Hospital is privileged to be celebrating in the same year as that splendid organization known as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, even though only half as old. Quotes: "The Red Line, only 276 strong, began the Great March West in 1874...and they brought law to over 300,000 square miles of unbordered country, many areas of which were in Alberta." "A blend of raw courage, fair play and firm enforcement earned 'Mounties' the trust of even the most militant." It might well be that the area around the City of Camrose benefited in those early days by these fine men. St. Mary's Hospital is proud to salute the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

At the request of the Camrose Separate School Board, teaching Sisters became members of the staff of St. Patrick School in 1958. These Sisters boarded at the hospital residence. Although the teachers were not involved in hospital work, the records are replete with their activities among children and parents, in City and area. At the present date, 1974, there is only one Sister teaching in Camrose, who is presently on the staff of Our Lady of Mount Pleasant School.

St. Mary's reached another milestone of progress on October 29, 1959, by its formal establishment of a Lay Advisory Board. In general, this board consisted of a group of representative citizens of the community who expressed willingness to serve as advisers to the Administration in the many problems connected with general hospital operations, and to build strong public and community relations for the hospital. This required knowledge and frank discussion of all aspects of hospital administration. On September 1, 1973, this Board took a big leap ahead. It was changed to a Governing Board, which gave it power to act when necessary. The first meeting of the newly organized Governing Board of St. Mary's Hospital was convened September 6, 1973. Mr. R. D. Thirsk called the meeting to order with the following

members present: Allan I. Schloss, Messrs. P. J. Swan, T. H. Gregory, W. F. Fowler, R. Tate, N. Metcalfe, Dr. D. B. Baker, A. Stollery, Sisters Rose Bekar, Josephine O'Neill, M. Gerald Francis, M. Gervase; guest: Mr. Norm Hanoski; excused, Mr. G. R. Knaut and Rev. J. Campbell.

The following article was written by R. MacLean in June 1959. It began with this quotations: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:21)

The work being carried out by the Sisters of the different Religious Congregations in the Hospitals of Alberta is primarily a work of love. These devoted Sisters have consecrated their whole lives to God, and spend their lives in striving to fulfill His great commandment of love. They certainly look for no material reward, nor are they motivated by any burning desire for success and prosperity in their field of labor. They seek only to do God's will concerning their particular sphere, that of caring for His sick and unfortunate children. Whether or not this work is met with earthly success and prosperity is not their prime concern, it is done solely for



Pictured above are members of the Governing Board of St. Mary's Hospital. They are [back row, left to right]: Wm. F. Fowler, Allan I. Schloss, Bert Stollery, T. H. Gregory, Norton J. Metcalfe. [Middle row]: Dr. D. B. Baker, P. J. Swan, R. D. Thirsk [chairman], G. Rod Knaut, Ralph Tate. [Front row]: Sister Mary Gervase, Sister Josephine O'Neill, Sister Rose Bekar, Sister Mary Gerald Francis, Father John F. Campbell.

Formerly, these people formed an Advisory Board. Effective September 1, 1973, the body became a Governing Board which sets policy for St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose. The Governing Board has the overall responsibility for the conduct of the Hospital in a manner consonant with the hospital's objective of providing high quality patient care. Under the authority of the Hospital Governing Board, the Administration is responsible for the planning, directing and controlling of the hospital in accordance with the by-laws of the hospital, the established policies of the Board and government statutes, regulations and directives.

God, so that others may come to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him. To those who come under their care the good Sisters show solid examples of charity and good will. All are treated alike by them—the unbeliever, the person who scoffs at religion and even an enemy of Christ. All are given the same gentle care and consideration, and very often it is this tender charity which softens the hearts of some professed skeptics and helps them to realize just what Christian charity means.

This article, therefore, is humbly dedicated to a greater realization and appreciation of the work being done by all the Sisters of the different Religious Congregations in hospitals in Alberta.

The Sisters first began their hospital work in Alberta during the 1880's. The role of the Sisters in our hospitals has been a very notable one. Many of them worked with new settlers and played an important part in helping to develop and stabilize newly settled areas. Their work has grown with the communities they served, and today they are serving the children and grandchildren of the early pioneers.

In many cases the Sisters arrived in Alberta to begin their work with nothing but their strong faith in God and an equally strong determination to serve Him unceasingly. It is this faith and trust in God which is responsible for any success in their work.

The above article recalls to mind various incidents that have happened over the years, but just one, which occurred about the time this feature appeared in print, will be recorded briefly:

A patient, a man in his early forties, was admitted to St. Mary's. Emaciated, taciturn, unresponsive as he lay as if he were a statue. The nurses confessed they felt ill at ease in his presence. They did what was necessary for the poor man but any effort to cheer him was met with a stony silence. One of the Sisters whose work rarely brought her in direct contact with the patients had occasion to go to his room for some information. Her questions were answered briefly and curtly. Sister turned to leave the room, but suddenly wheeled. Approaching the foot of the bed she took hold of his big toe. The man opened his eyes. Sister turned on her friendliest smile as she quoted, "If you meet someone who doesn't have a smile give him one of yours." Even Sister herself was unprepared for the reaction. "Sister," he said, almost pleadingly, "will you let me talk to you?" "Certainly," Sister replied, as she seated herself. "I haven't had much contact with nuns," he began, and his face lost much of its rigidity, "but I always suspected they were not real people." Then he told her the story of his life, not sparing himself. He had a devoted wife and three beautiful children. But for years, through pride, he had hidden something from his wife. When he was younger he just threw himself into one activity after another to drown his conscience. But, as he grew older, his health became affected and now he was the victim of a 'vicious circle.' "They are doing all kinds of tests

on me, Sister," he sighed, "but these will never reveal the cause of my illness. It was my wife who called the doctor and had me admitted here. My company will soon be moving me again and she realizes I will be unable to carry on as I am. Sister," he said as simply as a child, "I'll follow any suggestions you may give me. I'm at the end of my rope." To Sister, his duty was very clear and she told him so. "There's no time like the present," he answered grimly with a set jaw. "Will you please ask my wife to come over as soon as she is free? Let her know, though, that there is nothing wrong with me." In an incredibly short time the man's health improved. The family left Camrose, happier than they had been for years. Each Christmas to the present day, they make it a point to remember the Sister who, to them, was instrumental in bringing about a happiness and peace "greater," to quote the man's wife, "than we've had since we were married."

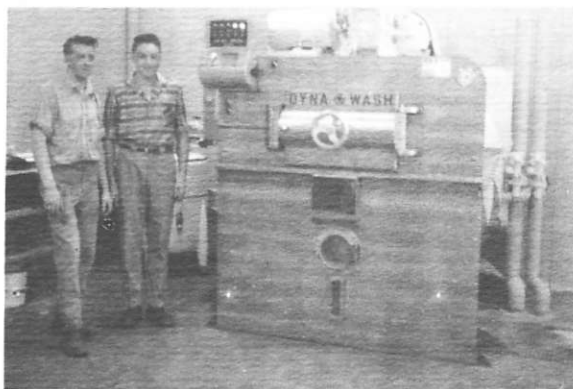
In 1960 nine members of the staff averaging over 110 years of service were honoured at a party that was organized by the Sisters with the aid of the Catholic Women's League. To quote the Camrose Canadian, "A top-notch program of entertainment was arranged for the evening, with several hilarious acts provided by the members of the staff itself. Some 218 guests were present." Each honoured member was presented with a silver coffee spoon, bearing the crest of the hospital. Heading the list was Mrs. Gladys Staszko with twenty years of service. It is interesting to note that Gladys, now in 1974, has extended her time of service to thirty-four years. Other members honoured were Miss Joanne Schuster, Mrs. Minnie Poeckens, Mrs. Mary Feth, Mrs. Catherine Selin, Mrs. Genevieve Ebbesen, Mrs. Marguerite McManaman, Willie Drummond and George Knott. In addressing the group, Sister Mary Clare, on behalf of the Sisters, said how delighted and grateful they were to have a group of such long-term, faithful employees.



**Last wash in the old laundry, December 1961**

On September 28, 1961, the first sod was turned for the new laundry by Reverend Dean Harrington. In doing so, Dean Harrington duplicated a similar gesture back in 1923 when he turned the first sod for the original hospital. It is also interesting to note that the cost of the new laundry was the same as that of the original hospital, \$100,000. This new and valuable addition was opened March 14, 1962, and was capable of handling a 150 bed hospital. However, on September 6, 1973, a permanent laundry agreement was decided upon with Rosehaven, as has been mentioned before, on a purchase basis. This decision





**New washer in new laundry**

was one of the first acts of the newly established Governing Board.

The float, entered in the Camrose Fair in the Summer of 1962, was again a prize winner, and displayed unusual skill and inspiration. On it was a beautifully decorated statue of Our Lady, patroness of St. Mary's Hospital, a large rosary made of tinfoil and a miniature representation of the hospital. The float was quite appropriately entitled 'Our Lady, Health of the Sick.'

In June of the following year a signal honour was accorded to one of our pioneer doctors, Dr. W. V. Lamb, at the annual convention of the Canadian Medical Association held in Toronto. Dr. Lamb received, in absentia, a Life Membership in the Association in recognition of many years of meritorious service rendered the people of Camrose and district during his long practice here. Less than one year later Dr. Lamb went to his eternal reward and St. Mary's lost a true friend, one who had been associated with the hospital for the forty years of its existence.

A beautiful shrine in honour of Mary, the Mother of God, who is patroness of St. Mary's, was erected on the grounds, in full view from the street. The base of the statue was built of stones from Mt. Robinson in Banff and a spotlight was placed in the front. The completed shrine was blessed by Bishop Harrington, brother of Dean Harrington. Members of the clergy were present as well as members of the staff. Hymns were sung, the rosary was recited, and little Theresa Heisler, daughter of Val Heisler, the maintenance man, crowned Our Lady with a beautiful wreath of yellow and white baby mums. Then all present recited the Act of Consecration to Our Lady.

The Municipal District of Camrose in cooperation with the City built a much needed parking lot for visitors and others. This has proved a very helpful asset to all concerned.

In May, 1964, a very profitable "Career Day" was held for students from all the High Schools in the Camrose Division. It was sponsored by St. Mary's Hospital, Rosehaven and Bethany Auxiliary Hospital. Every department in these institutions was displayed and the work done in each department was explained

by the Supervisor in charge. The students then viewed a film on nursing. These Career Days were repeated, with variations, over the years.

1964 marked the fortieth birthday of St. Mary's Hospital, and through the kindly interest of the Auxiliary and other friends, it proved a time of glorious celebration. The Camrose Booster gave a comprehensive account of one of the main events:

#### **AUXILIARY HOSTS HUNDREDS OF FRIENDS ON HOSPITAL'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Auxiliary of St. Mary's Hospital played host to some 400 friends who attended a reception in the Smith Clinic, Sunday, October 25, in honour of the Sisters of Providence, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the opening of St. Mary's Hospital.

In the receiving line were Mrs. B. M. Clarke, President of the Auxiliary, Sister Superior, and in turn the Sisters of St. Mary's. Congratulations, thanks, and good wishes were showered on the Sisters. Indicative of the esteem in which they are held were visitors who had come many miles for the event. Signing the guest book (presided over by the immediate past president of the Auxiliary, Mrs. H. Andreassen, and staff nurses Mrs. M. MacManamen and Mrs. Jack Iden), were visitors from Edmonton, Daysland, Killam, Galahad, Penticton, Parksville (Vancouver Island), Calgary, Wetaskiwin, Fort Saskatchewan, New Norway, Ohaton, Duhamel and Camrose.



**Pictured above is Sister Mary Gerald, a pioneer, at St. Mary's for forty-three years, cutting the cake at the fortieth anniversary celebration.**

The cutting of the Anniversary cake, a gift of the Auxiliary, was the proud honour conferred on Sister Mary Gerald. Sister Gerald came to St. Mary's forty years ago, and has given selfless and loving service throughout the years.

Fourteen beautiful flower arrangements graced the reception room, all gifts. Other gifts included a six piece silver service from the Catholic Women's League of St. Francis Xavier as well as

cakes, candies and money. (A teawagon was given at a later date.)

Among the special guests were the Very Reverend C. F. Harrington; Mr. B. H. Foster of Edmonton, representing the Department of Public Health; Monsignor W. J. Lyons, Edmonton, representing Archbishop Jordan; and Sister Mary Enda, former Sister Superior of St. Mary's Hospital.

The wives of the medical staff presided at the tea table. Members of the Auxiliary and staff nurses assisted with the sewing. General conveners for the function were Mrs. J. Barr and Mrs. B. Clarke, with Mrs. J. Kehoe and Mrs. A. Hitman in charge of the tea arrangements.

The Hospital staff also entertained the Sisters at a later date. Jerry Liebel, Staff President, recited the following delightful poem, composed by the staff:

The staff is gathered here today,  
To honor in a special way,  
Our Sisters who for forty years,  
Have persevered through smiles and tears.

Mind you—not all of these can claim,  
To forty years in this domain.  
Our Sister Mary Gerald's the one,  
Who weathered forty years—well done.

Let's talk about our Nuns awhile,  
And hope that this will bring a smile,  
We do not want to be too bold,  
Or say those things that can't be told.

Every department that must head,  
And keep from going in the red.  
No schemer can outwit them here,  
He'll find himself out on his ear.

They'll handle people twice their size,  
And any problems that arise,  
They're small but mighty we all know,  
Their wrath we don't want them to show.

Their habit covers all of them,  
From top of head to ankle hem,  
You'd think it's hard to get around,  
But they really cover lots of ground.

On silent feet they skim along,  
Their skirts don't hinder them for long,  
No prize for fashion they might win,  
Their styles don't change year out and in.

And here is something you never hear,  
"I just don't have a thing to wear,"  
They need no Easter bonnet new  
Or earthly things that we all do.

They work so hard, you'd think they'd drop,  
And then into their car they hop,  
And with Superior at the wheel,  
(They're taking quite a chance we feel).

But anyhow away they go,  
Out to a picnic spot they know,  
And there among the bugs and flies,  
They all relax with blissful sighs.

They have their lunch and stay until  
The day grows dark and damp and chill,  
Then back they go and speeding quite,  
The cops are watching out of sight.

Their eyes bug out, they've never seen,  
Penguins in a limousine.  
They shake their heads to get them cleared,  
By that time they have disappeared.

So blissfully unaware they fly,  
Back to St. Mary's where they try  
To keep things running smooth once more,  
Believe me that is quite a chore.

The things we've said are all in fun,  
We do admire the work they've done,  
No disrespect is meant today,  
Forty years more we hope they'll stay.

In June 1965 was celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Sister Mary Gerald's Religious Profession. Sister had spent over forty years in St. Mary's, always available, with her ready wit and kindness, to serve where and when needed. Many a person she comforted and cheered thus endearing herself to all.



Sister Mary Gerald

After the mass at 5:00 p.m. a delicious meal was served at the cottage where many visitors had gathered. Sister Mary Clare read a lengthy poem composed by Mrs. Gladys Roden, a staff member, in which the writer extolled Sister Mary Gerald's unselfish love, "a gift from Loving hands above." The poem told of the patience, kindness, humour, sincerity and self-effacement of the celebrant and concluded

On this Golden Anniversary  
She seeks neither fame nor fuss;  
But we thank God for this blessing  
That Sister is one of us.

In the fall of 1965 the Junior Volunteer Group was organized. It was composed of volunteer workers, 13 to 18 years of age. These girls were members of the Modern Miss Teen Club. Their contribution to the hospital consisted of carrying trays, feeding patients, reading to and writing for elderly patients, adopting long-term patients. The Volunteer Group Members were given an orientation program which prepared them for their special services to the sick and infirm, and they became popularly known as Volunteens. This group together with the volunteer Candy Strippers,

organized in the spring of 1970, have made a valuable contribution to the patients who love to accept services from these bright young girls.

Great was the rejoicing by the staff as well as by the community at large when, in the fall of 1965, Dr. Mac Smith was elected Mayor of Camrose by an overwhelming majority. Aware of the devoted and conscientious work the doctor was doing in his chosen profession, the citizens at large were convinced that the happiness, health and prosperity of the City would be in excellent hands. The doctor, accompanied by his wife, came to a party held to honour him on this momentous occasion. It was sponsored by the Sisters and held in the Board Room. An enjoyable entertainment followed a sumptuous meal. The doctor was worthy, indeed, of their trust, but he soon came to realize that, zealous though he was for the well-being of others, he must limit his efforts, if he did not want one or the other to suffer some neglect. After a second two-year term, Doctor Mac felt it his duty to withdraw from such a responsibility.

In June, 1966, when it was learned that Sister Mary Adele was leaving Camrose, the following article appeared in the Camrose Canadian:

"The old order changeth—the more things seem the same, the more they change," goes the old saying, written in many ways, another of which is, "Nothing is so certain as change." Once again the saying proves true, no matter how everyone thought that Sister Mary Adele of St. Mary's Hospital, like the brook, went on forever. For the word is out that Sister Mary Adele is moving to Providence Hospital at Daysland sometime this summer. Popular with patients, visitors and staff alike, Sister Mary Adele has seemed like the one permanent fixture at St. Mary's, serving it for over thirty years. Her efficient administration, her watchful attention to detail, her interest in the patients, and her keen sense of humour, made her a favorite at the hospital, and every visitor kept an eye peeled against the chance of meeting Sister in the corridors. It's probably Christian to share her with the sick at Daysland, but it's no less human to wish she could have continued to brighten the corridors here. After all, she was a permanent fixture. Well, nearly.

A public reception was held for Sister Mary Adele at the Howcroft Memorial Anglican Hall. The Camrose Canadian carried the interesting details of gifts, expressions of appreciation, etc., and concluded: "Sister graciously and humorously thanked the many donors and well wishers of the evening, recalling a number of amusing incidents in hospital life over the past several years, which brought many a laugh to her hearers. Sister Mary Adele, who has often been called 'an angel,' takes with her the very best wishes of the community."

History was made again when Dr. Allan Smith became a member of St. Mary's staff in January, 1967. Dr. Allan, son of Dr. Mac Smith and grandson of pioneer, Dr. P. F. Smith, was awarded the Mewburn Memorial Gold Medal in surgery in 1963. This award is

made to the student with the highest standing in surgery. Dr. Allan's father, Dr. Mac Smith, had earned the same award in the mid-thirties. Dr. Allan has proved to be a genuine asset to St. Mary's Hospital as well as to the community at large.

An article, "Hospital 'Mom' retires after 45 years service," appeared in the Camrose Canadian in 1969. Mrs. Katherine Sleen, who had been present when the first sod was turned in 1924, completed nearly a half century of service in the hospital laundry. She had seen the gradual hospital growth from the time the work-load was one day a week to the time it became four days a week. Mrs. Sleen was honoured and received gifts that befitted such an occasion. Hospital officials said that in losing Mrs. Sleen they were losing the services of a valuable employee. Her presence in the laundry would be missed for a long time to come.

For some years, retirees had been given a silver coffee spoon, bearing the hospital name. But, of late years, a commemorative plaque was substituted for the spoon.

In the cafeteria, in view of all who come and go, is a beautifully engraved copper scroll placed there by the Hospital Staff Association. Engraved on the scroll is the following:

**In Memory of St. Mary's Hospital Staff:**

Sister Mary Delphine .....	Sept. 5, 1935
Sister Mary Pulcheria .....	June 5, 1944
Joe Staszko .....	Oct. 18, 1952
Dennis Thronson .....	Dec. 1, 1960
George Knott .....	April 13, 1962
Clifford Badry .....	April 28, 1964
Mrs. Genevieve Ebbesen .....	Sept. 29, 1964
Mrs. Avis Stuve .....	May 19, 1965
Mrs. Katie (John) Kupka .....	Jan. 19, 1966
Miss Sandra Steil .....	May 29, 1967
Mrs. Cora Chase .....	Aug. 13, 1967
Leo Laskoski .....	Dec. 10, 1971

All these people were called to their eternal reward while still actively employed in the hospital. The work they did was as varied as their ages were diversified, ranging from twenty to sixty, which proves that death is a respecter of neither age nor place. The passing of each dear one came as a shock to fellow-workers and was the occasion of deep grief and distress. In many minds it raised the agonizing unanswerable question, "Why?" The only feasible answer seems to be found in these words of wisdom: "God gave us love. Something to love He only lent." May their souls rest in peace!

In 1969 the second beautiful new wing was added to St. Mary's. But as early as May 1962 the Lay Advisory Board voiced its justifiable complaints about the inadequacy of the various departments. The new laundry which was opened in 1962, was the only department with satisfactory facilities. Quote: "The Lay Advisory Board awaits a reply to a brief submitted to Dr. J. Donovan Ross, Provincial Minister of Health, requesting an addition to St. Mary's Hospital to alleviate the present crowded conditions. At present the hospital has 102 beds. The size of the addition has been left to the discretion of the

government. The brief also asked for additional auxiliary service."

Prior to this request, much irksome discomfort was experienced in the various departments. But the hospital personnel would continue to chafe for a while longer. Ecclesiastes 3 says that there is a time for everything under the sun. How true! One year later, three Provincial Cabinet Ministers came to investigate the reasons for the request, and promised to give the matter their fullest cooperation. It was not until July 1965 that approval for the new addition was finally granted by the Alberta Hospitalization Benefit Plan of the Provincial Department of Health. The executive director, Mr. J. D. Campbell, advised the Administrator that the "initial provincial maximum responsibility was established at \$450,000 to \$500,000 which is to include architectural fees." The new building was to be limited to two floors and include certain other facilities as outlined in the hospital's presentation. No one was happy about the proposal. At an Advisory Board Meeting in October 1965, Mr. Edwards, architect, showed a sketch of the proposed addition and renovations to St. Mary's Hospital. The Board in their turn presented graph charts showing the gross inadequacy of the suggested new wing. For the next several months discussions were held and new sketches, etc., were presented. Finally on December 23, 1966, the long awaited permission was obtained from the Department of Public Health to tender the new building project. Architects on the project were Diamond, Clarke and Associates, hospital specialists. The General Contractors for the new addition were Bird Construction Co. Ltd.

A report of March 21, 1967, has a joyous note: "Contractors are removing snow in preparation for piling and thawing the ground for excavation. The new building is actually becoming a reality." But there were many problems to be solved before the work was completed. The records read like a litany of lamentations:

May 2: The water main broke during excavation.

Nov. 20: A picket line marched in front of the new construction; the asbestos workers were on strike.

Dec. 18: There was an explosion in the boiler room during the diesel oil trial run.

Feb. 20, 1968: Hot water to operating room and throughout hospital is inadequate. Doctors are scrubbing for surgery with cold water; and water is heated in kettles for dishwashing in the nursing unit diet kitchens.

Feb. 29: Power switches over to new system; problem in the laundry with inadequate power supply.

March 8: A cat was trapped in the crawl space under the hospital. If the cat was disturbed, so were we!

March 24: Hospital water meter on new job-site shut off. Contractors supplying their own water.

April 16: General Medical Staff meeting interrupted by a flood in the old kitchen, and a fire in the crawl space under the new construction.

April 23: Final "take-over" inspection of Maternity Floor. Architects, contractors, Board members and sub-trades trooped from one room to the next, the architects noting and pointing out every

visible flaw. The list was very lengthy and further inspection was postponed for another week, giving the construction crew an opportunity of bringing the work to an acceptable phase. The supervisor of construction was held accountable for every minor flaw. If this is the procedure of every building project, the poor supervisor certainly will not find the Final Judgment a new experience.

April 30: Take-over inspection of nursing floors in new building. The inspection lasted from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the deficiency list constituting many pages. In a state of complete exhaustion and exasperation the take-over forms were signed at 5:15 p.m.

May 7: Total evacuation began. First day in new facilities went surprisingly well. The second day we received a request from the Anaesthetist. Could we hammer nail into the wall on which to hang his trousers? The money falls out of his pocket when hanging the trousers over a chair! Sr. Mary Gervase dryly replied, "Call me when it falls!"

May 9: Concrete pad for oxygen tank in the yard not enough to hold the tank; reinforcements required.

May 10: Air conditioning in new Case Room (presently being used for operating room) working in reverse and blowing hot air instead of cold air. We had some "hot" operations for a few days.

May 13: Workmen repaired air conditioning and guest what! Everyone freezing in the operating room, including the patients.

May 14: Public address wires accidentally cut by plumbers. What a blessedly quiet house for a few hours!

Aug. 2: Motor for exhaust fan out for repair again. This motor has never worked satisfactorily.

Aug. 23: Air exchange not working satisfactorily. Nursing units are cold, and main floor steaming.

But these "lamentations" were interspersed with bright and happy little news-bits: An anonymous donor gave \$1,000.00; the Ladies' Auxiliary and the Catholic Women's League offered to furnish the main lobby; the Knights of Columbus gave a cheque for \$1,000.00 to furnish a day room on the Surgical Floor; today we were able to use our new elevators. Friends and service clubs gave substantial donations. These entries and several other similar ones, helped dispel the gloom created by the distressing and irritating ones. The final entry for the year, December 31, read: "The last day of a very happy year, though burdened with much anxiety and many problems. We thank God for this past year, and ask for wisdom and strength for the coming year."

But, it was indeed a glorious day of rejoicing when, on May 14, 1969, the new wing of St. Mary's Hospital was officially opened. Friends from far and near came to help celebrate on this happy occasion. The inclemency of the weather failed to dampen their enthusiasm, and visitors crowded into the spacious new entrance where a platform has been hastily erected for the speakers.

Mr. J. A. Barr, Chairman of the Advisory Board, made the introductory remarks. Mother M. Lenore Carter, Superior General of the Sisters of Providence, Kingston, Ontario, gave an address of welcome. An invocation was made by Reverend Ward Rogers, Chairman of the Ministerial Association. The



Dedication was made by Most Rev. A. Jordan, O.M.I., Archbishop of Edmonton. A very fitting address was made by Mr. J. D. Campbell, who also cut the ribbon, assisted by Mr. Ron Clarke, architect. Greetings were brought by Dr. K. T. MacQuarrie, Chief of Medical Staff, St. Mary's Hospital, and it was, indeed, most gratifying that words of greeting were given by His Worship, the Mayor, who was none other than St. Mary's own Dr. 'Mac' Smith.

A local newspaper with headings such as "Increased Efficiency is Mark of New Wing," and "St. Mary's New Wing in Ultra-Modern Area" tells in detail of the excellent improvement and added services rendered because of the new addition. To quote:

"Two things are quite noticeable upon entrance into the new area: (1) is the bright colors that prevail throughout, and (2) is the lack of hospital odour. Hospitals are not usually known as cheerful looking places, but St. Mary's is a direct contradiction to this theory in every area. Hospitals are also known to have their own distinctive odour, but, again, not St. Mary's! A new system called 'air exchange' is used and this not only provides fresh air to breathe, but keeps the atmosphere at a reasonable temperature, and eliminates much of the sterilizing smell usually pervading hospital corridors.

The article then continues to describe, in detail, the improvements in the different departments beginning with the kitchen and dietary departments; and, in subsequent articles, each of the other departments. Although the bed-capacity was increased by only fifteen, much better service was provided in all departments due to the added efficiency of the new addition.

When the Survey for Hospital Accreditation for 1970 was announced, the administrator was away on a business trip. She hastened home at the earliest possible date, only to find that the staff had everything in order for the survey. This bears out the fact that "any administrator is only as good as the people working with him." Since 1924, St. Mary's has been built on such people, from the seemingly least of the staff to the administrator; for "the greatest cannot stand without the least." The hospital is truly blessed to have had efficient and dedicated personnel over the past fifty years.

#### HATS OFF TO ST. MARY'S

The staff at St. Mary's, from administration down, deserve the highest praise for their continuing record of excellence in the maintenance of exceptional standards of hospital operation, as witnessed by their recently receiving news—for the seventh straight term—of the "accreditation" seal of approval.

A good deal of the credit goes to one of the Sisters of Providence here some twenty years ago who set herself the near-Herculean task of bringing the hospital's records up to a state of detailed perfection. But this was only part of the task, and the staffs all down through the years who have maintained these exceptional levels of perfection also deserve our warmest commendations.

The accreditation is for a three year period, and before this award is completed, it will mean more than two full decades have been completed under this hallmark of excellence. Thousands of us who have had occasion, or feel someday we may have occasion to need the facilities at St. Mary's, have built up a warm and proprietary interest in the hospital and its fortunes over the years, and it's mighty reassuring to know how high it's regarded by experts. In the light of its history of barely two score years and ten, a record of near one score on this plane is remarkable.

Of 112 active treatment hospitals in Alberta, 27 are accredited.



**Sister Mary Josephine O'Neill [left] arrived in 1971 to take up her duties as Superior of the Sisters of Providence, St. Mary's Hospital, and to serve as laboratory technician. Sister is pictured here discussing hospital business with Sister Rose Bekar, Administrator of the Hospital.**

- Courtesy of the Camrose Canadian

The "age of meetings" is here with all its unyielding force, but, during the past few years the recurring dates seem to come with increasing frequency. In the annals of September, 1966, was listed:

This month our meetings begin again for the year:

First Tuesday .....	Safety Committee
Third Tuesday .....	Medical Staff
Second Thursday .....	Advisory Board
Third Thursday .....	Auxiliary
Fourth Thursday .....	Nursing Chapter
Once a month .....	General Non-Nursing Staff
Every Wednesday .....	Ward Rounds
Every second week .....	Supervisors and Head Nurses

It ended on this wail: "It seems that all we do is meet and write minutes."

But now, in 1974, there have been as many as three meetings a day, necessary, no doubt, but frequently pressuring and time-consuming. Some satisfaction may well be derived by each member since

during the meeting one not only gives, but also receives. Added to this, there are the special evening courses available of which the staff members frequently wish to take advantage. In spite of all the labour-saving devices invented, people seem to have less and less time to really relax and enjoy the fruits of these inventions.

In June, 1973, the Camrose Gideons presented to the hospital one hundred copies of the New Testament with Psalms. These should provide inspirational reading for the patients for a long time.

For some weeks, early in 1973, the Laundry Service from St. Mary's was transferred to Rosehaven on a trial basis only. But the first official act of the newly-formed Governing Board on September 6, 1973, was to establish this agreement on a permanent basis. Prior to this, since November 1969, the Dietary Services had been contracted out to a company which absorbed the staff already employed in the hospital. The arrangement has been most satisfactory.

St. Mary's lost a truly devoted friend, one who was dearly loved by all, when God called Pastor Aasen to his eternal reward shortly after his one hundredth birthday, February, 1974. Would anyone have thought that this saintly gentleman, who was fifty years of age at the time St. Mary's Hospital was opened in 1924, would have lived to see the dawn of the hospital's Golden Jubilee? Pastor Aasen, a Lutheran clergyman, was as devoted to the Sisters at St. Mary's as they

were to him. Not long after the Ecumenical Council had begun, he came to the hospital one day carrying an angel food cake for the Sisters. The dining room was set up with the best dishes, and Pastor Aasen, to his surprise, was invited to have tea with the Sisters. As he leaned over and kissed Sister Superior on the cheek, he remarked, "Thank God for Pope John XXIII! A few years ago this could not have been possible much as we should have wished it." How much like the good Pope John was this princely gentleman! May their saintly souls be forever at peace. Through their intercession with the Master they both served so faithfully, may they be instrumental in bringing many souls to Him.

What about the future of St. Mary's Hospital? Statistics show that now, in 1974, Camrose City gives promise of rapid expansion. Already for the past several months the hospital staff has been aware of an increasing discomfort due to the need of more space. St. Mary's has weathered many a storm and has come through with its light still glowing brightly. However, this is an age of rapid change and of shifting values.

For the glorious past, with its sunshine and shadow; for the exciting present with its many satisfactions; for the uncertain future which is in the hands of Divine Providence, St. Mary's has but one song to sing!

TE DEUM LAUDAMUS!



**A ROSE FOR FIFTY YEARS** — To mark the 50th anniversary, St. Mary's Hospital is giving a rose to each patient who is fifty years of age at the time of his or her stay in the hospital. Above, Sister Mary Josephine O'Neill presents the first rose to Malcolm Monson, with Sister Mary Gervase, right, looking on. The card reads, "The Sisters, Governing Board and staff are pleased to present you with this rose in honour of our Golden Jubilee year and of your 50th year."

- Courtesy of the Camrose Canadian

## INSIDE ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL



Administrator  
Sister Rose Bekar



OR — Back Row: Haede Scheistel, C. H. Smith, M.D., Eunice Bolch, Alma Wiklun. Front Row: Rita Rode (Hirsch), Margaret Murray (Lomas) and Betty Brooks.



The Surgical team at work in the Operating Room.



Pictured above is Dr. R. D. Reikie; Mr. A. Yaeck, Public Health Inspector; Miss G. Hogan, Civil Defense, Edm.



Pictured above is Mrs. N. Klug, R.N., C.N.A.; Dr. D. J. Murray; Mrs. M. Iden, R.N. and patient



Shown above is Dr. F. MacInnis and patient



Shown above is Jim Curry; Miss H. Schiestel, R.N.; Dr. W. J. Siwak and patient

**The Medical Staff has the overall responsibility for the quality of all medical care provided to patients, and for the ethical conduct and professional practices of its members, and is accountable to the Governing Board.**



This team of Nursing Supervisors is fully authorized and responsible for the maintenance and supervision of the high standards of nursing care, through the guidance and direction of nursing personnel in accordance with established hospital and departmental objectives and policies.

Shown in picture, back row, is Mrs. P. Van Troyen, Mrs. J. Glaspell, Mrs. B. McDermott, Mrs. A. Hilgartner, Sister Susan Pye and Miss M. LaBarge. Front Row: Mrs. L. Zimmer, Mrs. M. Hilgartner, Mrs. B. O'Riordan, Miss C. Giedeman (Lohner), and Mrs. N. Schraefel.





From the Nursing Service Office stem activities which plan, organize, direct and control the Nursing Department's physical, financial and human resources in accordance with departmental and hospital policies and objectives.

Shown in picture at left is Mrs. P. VanTroyen and Sister Giovanni Burrowes.



Mrs. E. Klaus, C.N.A.  
with patient



Shown above is Mrs. M. Clennin, Miss P. Lindsay, Mrs. E. Maruschak (hidden), Mrs. E. Blake, Miss M. LaBarge, Mrs. M. Thomson, Mrs. G. Switzer and Mrs. S. Pearson.

The Surgery unit contains 47 patient beds. Orthopedic patients occupy 12, general adult surgery patients occupy 30, and 5 beds are allotted for Pediatric patients. The staff consists of R.N.s, C.N.A.s, C.N.O.s, and a Ward Secretary.



The Medical Department is a 45-bed unit with 6 pediatric cribs and 2 youth beds. Over the years the Department has been active in treating and nursing patients with acute and chronic heart disease, respiratory disorders, neurological problems, acute and chronic leukemias, diabetes, arthritis, liver disease and cerebral vascular accidents. This unit is equipped to monitor cardiac patients and to set up peritoneal dialysis. Shown in picture, left to right, are: Mrs. M. Gaffney, Miss M. Klassen, Sister Susan Pye, Mrs. C. Wilcox, Miss M. Oomen, Mrs. S. McFadyen, Mrs. C. Haugen, Mrs. P. Petersen and Mr. W. Sorensen.



The care and love the newborn infant receives plays an important role in his future well-being. Shown in the above picture is Mrs. B. Swanson and baby, Mrs. C. Lohner and Mrs. G. Baptist and baby.



**CENTRAL SERVICE ROOM** — Loading the autoclave for sterilization is one of the many duties in Central Supply. When the term "sterilization" is used, it means the complete and total killing of all micro-organisms of any type, which is a "must" in every hospital ensuring the safety of patients. Shown in above picture is Mrs. L. Orcheski.

#### LIGHTER MOMENTS AT ST. MARY'S



Fr. F. Tomeczak and Mrs. M. Chabot



Pediatric Patients



Christmas Party



Christmas Party



Mrs. Chabot and Patient

**PHYSICAL MEDICINE** — can be termed "the bridge which fuses curative and preventive medicine". Early ambulation self-care activities exercise and other treatments assist the patient in speeding the recovery process. Shown in picture at right is Mrs. K. Wilson and Mrs. K. Leskiw with two patients.





**RESPIRATORY TECHNOLOGY** — the newest department at St. Mary's Hospital. The department provides In Patient and Out Patient breathing services, Analyzation and interpretation of arterial blood, simple lung studies plus a wide range of other functions necessary for the maintenance of good breathing. Shown in the picture at the left is Mr. Norm Clark with Mrs. M. Chabot.

**RADIOLOGY [X-RAY DEPARTMENT]** — Our function is the use of X-Ray Machines and electronic equipment in production and recording of images of examinations of patients which involves teamwork with doctors, nurses, and all staff throughout the hospital. This department is staffed by four visiting Radiologists from Red Deer and two registered technicians who offer services throughout St. Mary's, Rosehaven, and Out Patients. Shown in picture at right is Dr. J. Freedman (Radiologist), Mrs. M. Matheson, R.T., and Mrs. A. Popowich, R.T.



**LABORATORY** — The purpose of the laboratory is to aid the physician in diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease. This requires the Medical Technologist to be prepared to do competently clinical pathology, including chemical, hematological, serological, bacteriological, urological and histological procedures which are requested by the physician. Shown in the picture at the left is Mrs. L. Shepert.





**PHARMACEUTICAL** — The Pharmaceutical service is consistent with the medication needs of the patients and includes control and accountability of drug products throughout the hospital. Shown in picture at left is Mrs. S. Galenza and Mrs. G. Stasko.

**MEDICAL RECORDS** — The major functions of the Medical Records Department are to Secure, Preserve, and Utilize the Medical Record. Because "People forget and records remember", the record is of value to the patient, the hospital, the physician and for research and teaching.

The Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation utilizes the record in measuring the quality of medical care rendered by the hospital and its medical staff as reflected in the written record. Shown in the picture at the right is Miss S. Moffatt, Miss S. Yurkiw and Mrs. B. Starcheski.



**ADMITTING OFFICE**

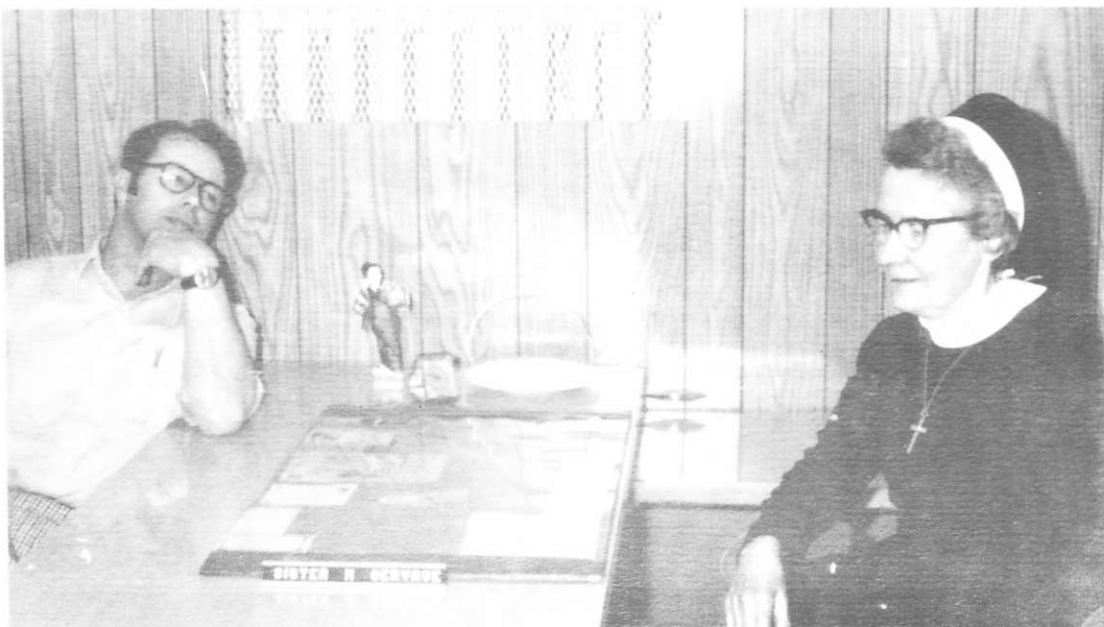
Shown above are Alice Tate, Anne Feddema, Nadine Stang, Sharon George and Sister Mary Kenneth

**The financial department is responsible for the development and implementation of budgetary, accounting and statistical systems to meet the administrative requirements of the hospital.**



Above is Mr. T. H. Gregory and Sister M. Gerald Francis

**The Purchasing Department is staffed by two qualified Purchasing Agents. Our function is to administer and direct a program in purchasing supplies, equipment and services promptly and with courtesy ensuring the comfort and safety of the patient and satisfaction of the Departments. It is our responsibility to find the most favorable price consistent with quality, quantity and service, with subsequent inspection, storage, control and distribution of supplies and equipment.**



Shown above is Mr. Ron Bailey and Sister M. Gervase

**The Hospital Auxiliary, in one form or another, is as old as St. Mary's itself and too, proudly celebrates its fiftieth anniversary.**



**HOSPITAL AUXILIARY OFFICERS, 1962** — Mrs. E. Rude, treasurer; Mrs. J. Lanigan, corresponding secretary; Mrs. M. Erven, vice-president; Mrs. Bernie Clarke, secretary; and Mrs. Frank MacInnis, president.

Members of the Ladies' Auxiliary of St. Mary's Hospital have taken steps to see that women patients enjoy their hospital stay a little more, by setting up a "beauty" room where they can have their hair done. Mary Orr and Lucille Siwak show the operation on a couple of volunteers from the staff, Mrs. I. Clark and Mrs. A. Perry.

**The primary functions of a hospital auxiliary are volunteer services, fund raising and public relations.**



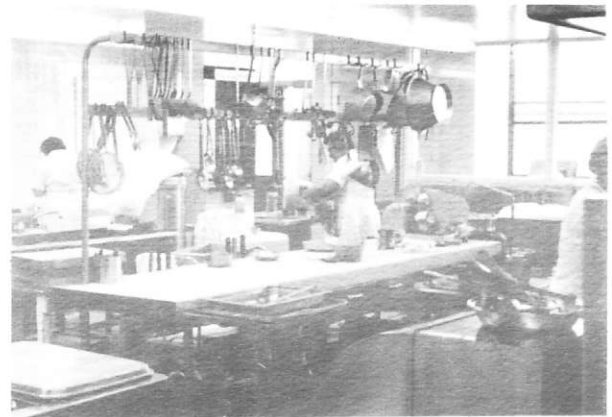
**Mrs. K. Pilger and Mrs. I. Byers**



**Mrs. A. MacInnis and Patient**



Shown above is Mrs. Feddema



**The Dietary department is responsible for the requisitioning, storage, preparation and distribution of food to meet the normal and therapeutic nutritional needs of patients and other food services provided by the hospital.**



Pictured at left is Mrs. I. Brace, Mrs. M. Ewaskiw, Mrs. F. Harper, Mrs. K. Kelly, Mrs. A. Hardman, Mrs. P. Chartrand, Mrs. E. Olofson and Mrs. I. Clark.

**We, the Housekeeping Staff, are engaged in the field of sanitation in St. Mary's Hospital, providing patients, visitors and staff with a clean and healthy environment for all to enjoy. Our motto is "Cleanliness".**

Pictured at right is Mrs. E. Olofson, Mrs. I. Clark, and Mr. K. Hauser.





The laundry unit is responsible for processing sorted linen and which assists in providing an adequate and sanitary supply of linen for use of patients.



Pictured above is Mrs. G. Stasko and Mrs. K. Lesku

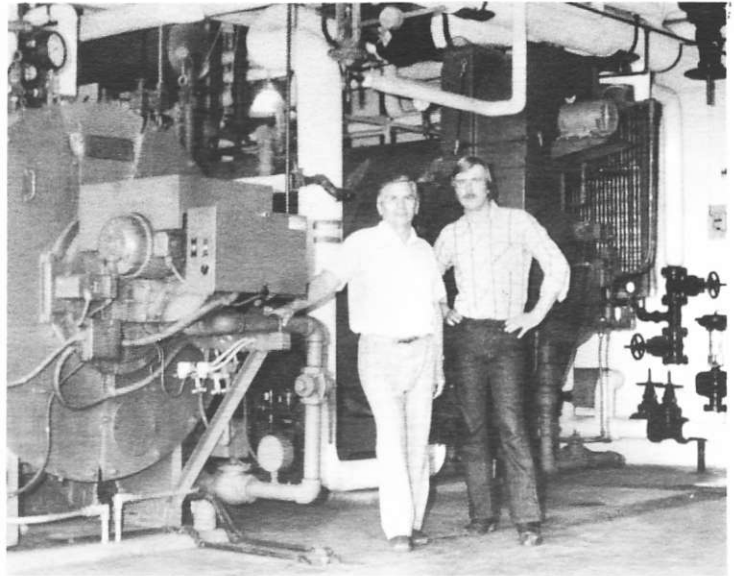
Preparing to transport soiled laundry to Rosehaven for laundering.



Pictured above is Mr. A. Lemke

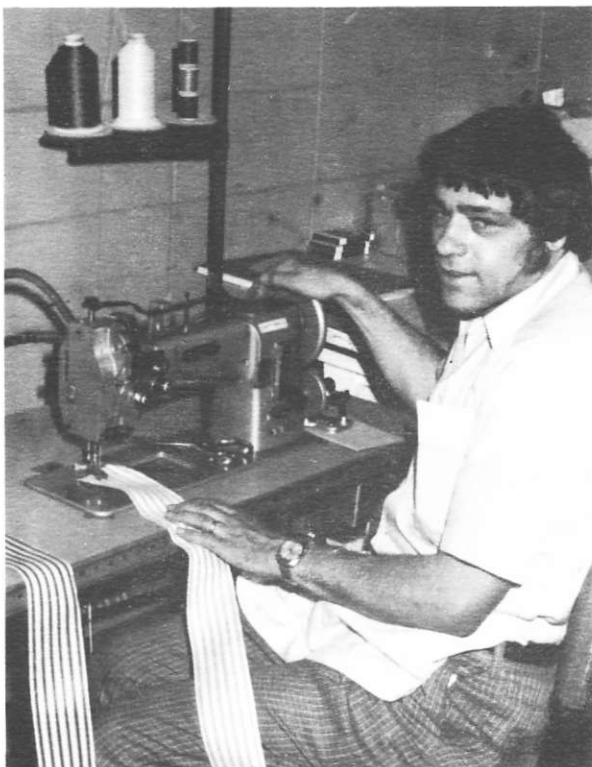


Pictured above is Mr. A. Mandrusiak

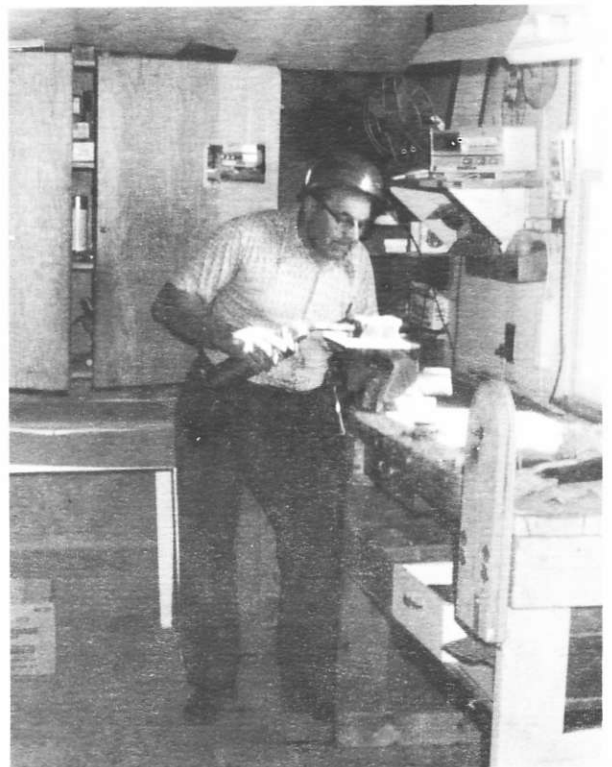


Shown above is Mr. W. Gorgichuk and Mr. G. Smith

**The Chief Engineer and his staff are responsible for the provision, distribution and monitoring of water, light, heat, power and other service systems as well as for servicing and repairing the physical plant which includes the hospital grounds, buildings and equipment.**



Pictured above is Mr. S. Liebel.  
Upholstering - one of the newest services added to St. Mary's



Pictured above is Mr. P. Pruss



Chapel — Dean P. Harrington



Chapel — remodelled

Pictured at right is, back row (left to right), Amelia Gronberg, Sister Mary Alban (Superintendent of Nurses), Edna Lyseng, Sister Mary Clotilda (Superior), and Marie Gronberg. Front row is Florence Kellinton (Miss Vera Verreau) and Kathleen Bosley.



Pictured at left is, back row (left to right), M. Adele, M. Justina, M. Rosalia, M. Gervase, M. Annette, M. Clare and M. Eugenia. Front row is: Patricia Morris, M. Stephane, M. Julia, M. Gerald and M. Agnita.



**SISTERS 1974**

Back Row (left to right) M. Gervase, Josephine O'Neill, Rose Bekar, Giovanni and Gerald Francis  
Front Row (left to right) M. Perpetua, Susan Pye, Jeannette and M. Kenneth





#### 1974 MEDICAL STAFF

Standing (left to right) Dr. A.D. Peterson, Dr. K.T. MacQuarrie,  
 Dr. C.H. Smith, Dr. J.H. Young, Dr. R.D. Reikie,  
 Dr. T.M. Corrigan, Dr. D.J. Murray,  
 Seated, Dr. D.B. Baker, Dr. W.J. Siwak, Dr. J.R. Weir,  
 Dr. A.G. Smith, Dr. F.M. Smith.



ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL — 1974

