



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.



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.

St. Mary's Hospital Camrose, Alberta

50th Anniversary Newspaper Supplement
The Camrose Canadian
October 23, 1974

Source: Courtesy of the Archives of the Sisters of
Providence of St. Vincent de Paul
Kingston, Ontario

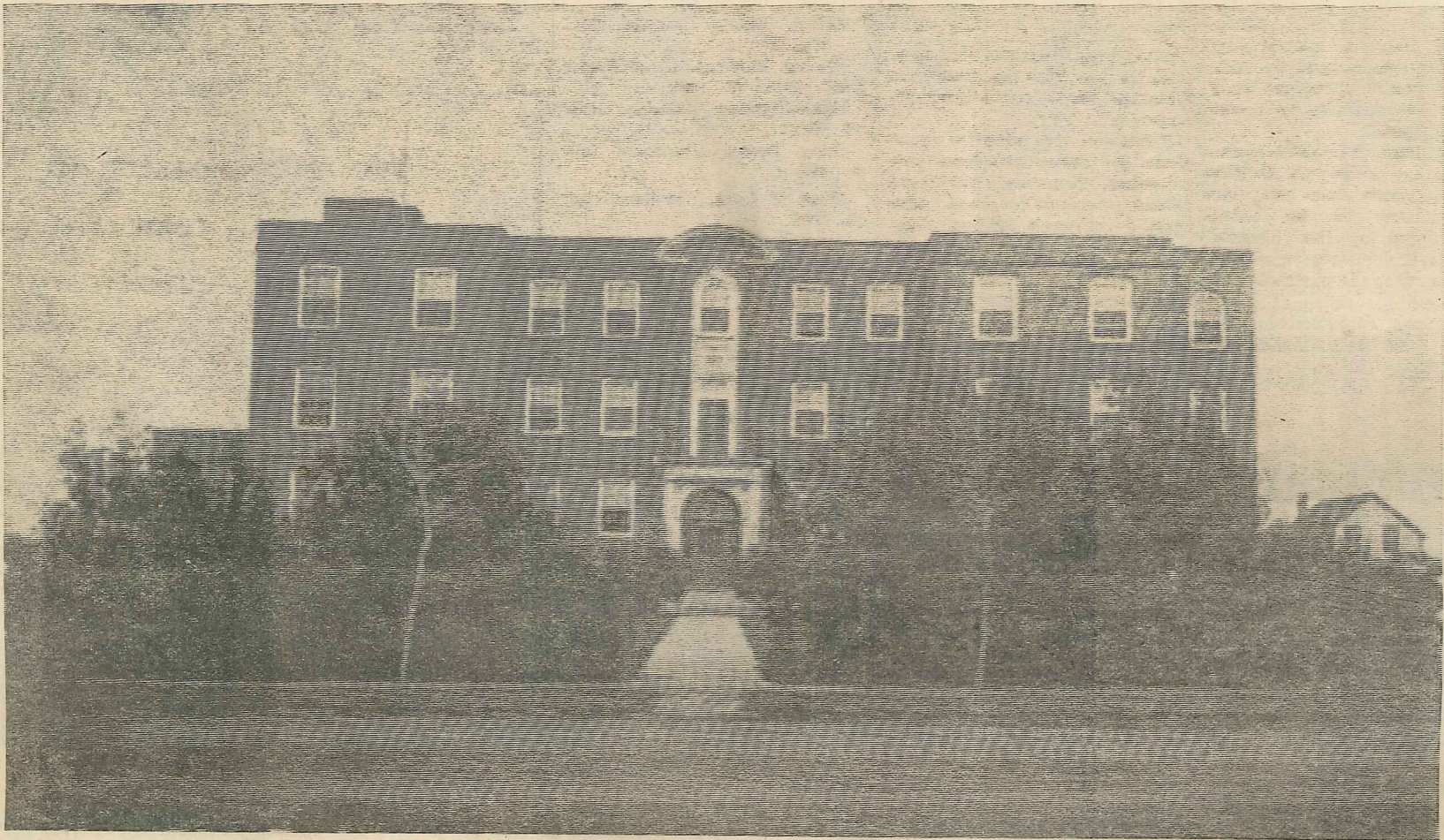
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50th Anniversary Supplement

PUBLISHED FOR ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL BY THE CAMROSE CANADIAN

Oct. 23rd, 1974—PAGE 1



Original structure

During its fifty year history, St. Mary's Hospital has grown in size and facilities, greatly increasing its ability to handle the sick. Just compare this building, the way it used to be,

and the present building to see just how much the hospital has grown since its inception.

Tomorrow is 50th birthday for St. Mary's Hospital

Fifty years of dedication and service to the community is being celebrated this week as the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul mark the Golden Jubilee anniversary of St. Mary's Hospital in Camrose with a special three-day program of events.

While the hospital has now been operating for fifty years, planning for the structure was started five years previously, when ratepayers in the Town of Camrose decided that their fourteen-bed hospital was totally inadequate.

The Sisters of Providence were approached and asked to build and operate a hospital in Camrose. The Sisters had earlier constructed and operated a hospital in Daysland when it appeared that that center would be the largest in this particular region of Alberta. As a result, the first request to operate a hospital in Camrose was rejected by the Sisters.

Negotiations were continued and when it appeared a certainty that Camrose would become a major center, the Sisters then became actively interested and agreed, upon certain concessions from the Town to build and operate a hospital in the town.

This agreement was reached in the fall of 1922 and preparations were commenced immediately. Land was secured with financing and construction plans being drafted that winter.

Work on the fifty-bed structure started in May of 1924 following a sod turning ceremony the previous month. The building, costing \$100,000, was

built by Poole Construction Company.

Archbishop O'Leary of Edmonton came to Camrose on October 23, 1924 to lay the cornerstone of the new hospital. Then, during special ceremonies the following day, he blessed and officially opened the hospital.

The first patient in St. Mary's Hospital was Mrs. Edward Kremin of Ohaton who was admitted for an emergency operation. From then on, a steady stream of patients have kept the Sisters and staff quite busy.

Immediately after the official opening, a public meeting was held and a Hospital Guild (later to become Hospital Auxiliary) was formed. This group met for the first time on November 11, 1924 and have been re-organized twice since being formed and they will celebrate their 50th anniversary next month.

When St. Mary's opened, four doctors were on staff, Dr. P.F. Smith, Dr. F. A. Nordbye, Dr. W.H. Craig and Dr. W.V. Lamb who became the first chairman of the Medical Staff.

In November of that year, a civic opening for the hospital was held which marked the opening of a Training School for Nurses under the direction of Sister Mary Alban. Among the first students were the Gronberg twins, Marie and Amelia, Kathleen Bosley, Edna Lyseng and Flossie Kellington.

Despite hardships at the start the hospital progressed with a minor operating room being opened early in 1925. At that time, the Ladies Guild raised

funds for an x-ray machine which was received and installed on March 27, 1925.

Initially, it was an extremely busy time for the Sisters. One of their favourite forms of recreation in the early days was to take some food and enjoy a stroll and picnic in the cemetery. On other occasions, ladies from the community would take the Sisters sight-seeing.

One of the first employees to work at St. Mary's was seventeen year old Joe Staszko who became an orderly. Since his first date of employment, there has always been a member of the Staszko family on staff at St. Mary's, Joe's sister, Minnie is presently on staff at the hospital.

In 1931, the College of Physicians and Surgeons gave full accreditation to St. Mary's Hospital, one of only 24 in the entire country to gain such recognition at that time. This accreditation has been maintained ever since, except for a period during World War II when a shortage of doctors prevented the hospital from receiving accreditation.

Rosehaven was established in 1947 for the care of the disoriented. Since then, co-operation has grown between the two institutions so that, today, many services are shared jointly to the financial benefit of both.

Another "family tree" became established in 1936 when Dr. Mac Smith, son of Dr. P.F. Smith joined the staff. Another son, Dr. Hamp Smith joined the staff in 1946 and a grand-

son, Dr. Allan Smith, joined in January, 1967.

One setback came when the School of Nursing had to be discontinued in 1935 as the bed capacity of the hospital did not meet the requirements of the Standards for Schools of Nursing. While in operation, the school had forty-three graduates. In 1935, the debt for the hospital was finally paid and the Sisters attempted to secure the deed for the property, only to be put off by town officials until in February, 1936. Sisters Mary Alban and Mary Roberts went to the Town Hall and announced they would wait right there until the deed was ready. It was "ready" quite soon.

During this period of time, space in the hospital became more and more cramped until finally, on May 16, 1945, the Sisters of Providence proposed building a fifty-bed addition.

On July 14, 1947 construction, on the new addition commenced at a projected cost of \$400,000. At the same time, because of the rapid development of the town, it was deemed advisable to secure more property. Three lots were obtained from the town while a fourth was donated by Frank Mohler.

Archbishop MacDonald of Edmonton officially opened the new addition to St. Mary's on April 20, 1949. This addition provided the hospital with 102 beds, and three fully modernized operating rooms.

The Smith Clinic came into being in 1948 in the Smith Block, transferring to the pres-

(Continued on Page 16)

Hospital operates school for nurses

During its first ten years, St. Mary's conducted a school for nurses, and saw 43 students gain their Registered Nurse certificate during that period of time. The first of the students, sisters Amelia and Marie Gronberg, entered training only days after the hospital opened, on November 20, 1924, and were followed at intervals by other young women.

Even though the school registered nurses in the fall of 1924, it was not until June 1927 that final approval for the school was granted by the Senate, after favorable recommendation from the Department of Health.

The school continued in operation, with high standards, until 1935.

At that time, the limited capacity of the hospital, fifty beds, did not meet the prevailing requirements of the Standards for Schools of Nursing, and the training school was closed by those in charge at that time.

Even then they had, however, high hopes that in time the training school would later reopen.

Naturally, the majority came from the immediate area surrounding Camrose, but the school managed to draw some girls from much further away, including two from B.C., and one from Saskatchewan.

Following is a complete list of the graduates from the nursing school, as taken from the records of the hospital,

with the date they entered training.

Amelia A. Gronberg, Camrose Nov. 20, 1924

Marie Gronberg, Camrose, Nov. 20, 1924

Kathleen Bosley, Camrose, Dec. 1, 1924

Flossie Kellington of Junor, Sask. Dec. 11, 1924

Edna Lyseng, Armena, Feb. 18, 1925

Rose Haspel, Camrose, July 6, 1925

Mary McLeod, Daysland, Oct. 12, 1925

Inga Hendrickson, Hay Lakes Aug. 1, 1925

Bertha Hutson, Tofield, Feb. 15, 1926

Rehilda Asp, Wetaskiwin, on Feb. 15, 1926

Pauline Litva, Vernon, B.C. Apr. 26, 1926

Audrey Coates, Compeer, on July 1, 1926

Josephine Freeman, Wetaskiwin, Sept. 24, 1926

Marcella Lenhart, Daysland, Aug. 1, 1927

Clara Albers, Wetaskiwin, on Feb. 15, 1928

Albertina Fetzner, Camrose July 9, 1928

Evelyn Arnold, Nanton, Aug. 10, 1928

Leona Lenhart, Daysland, on July 20, 1928

Nellie Hurley, Mirror, Aug. 1, 1928

Anna Kehoe, Camrose, Sept. 18, 1928

Diana Harsch, Provost, Nov. 11, 1928

Sister Mary Eugenia, Camrose, May 25, 1929

Margaret Raine, Daysland on Apr. 1st, 1929

Geneva Linberg, Camrose, Apr. 2, 1929

Margaret Morrell, Provost, on Sept. 10, 1929

Mabel Hladik, Wetaskiwin on Sept. 10, 1929

Melva Tisdale, Bawlf, Sept. 4, 1929

Irene Lotzer, Cadogan, Oct. 14, 1930

Lena Missal, Vernon, B.C., Oct. 26, 1930

Jessie Montney, Cadogan, on Dec. 31, 1930

Mabel Sutter, Islay, Feb. 28, 1931

Lillian Hladik, Wetaskiwin, on Sept. 1, 1931

Mary Kinsman, Camrose on Sept. 1, 1931

Mildred Hardy, Calgary, Sept. 1, 1931

Margaret King, Rosalind, on Sept. 1, 1931

Mabel Heartberg, Sedgewick, Oct. 4, 1931

Minnie Simonson, Tofield, on Nov. 3, 1931

Bertha Heggerud, Wetaskiwin Apr. 28, 1932

Grace Bartsch, Mayorville, on Apr. 28, 1932

Mayme Brunham, Drumheller May 16, 1932

Luella Graham, Bawlf, on July 1, 1932

Margaret Shea, Camrose, on July 6, 1932

Agnes Shea, Camrose, July 6, 1932

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First grads

This is the first graduating class from St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing back in the late 1920's. The school was forced to close in the early 30's when the hospital didn't qualify to teach nursing. The little girls in the picture are flower girls.

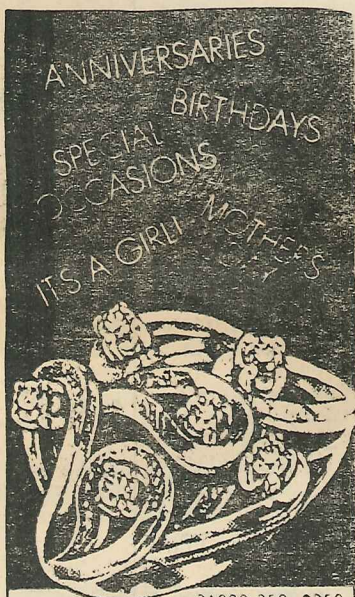
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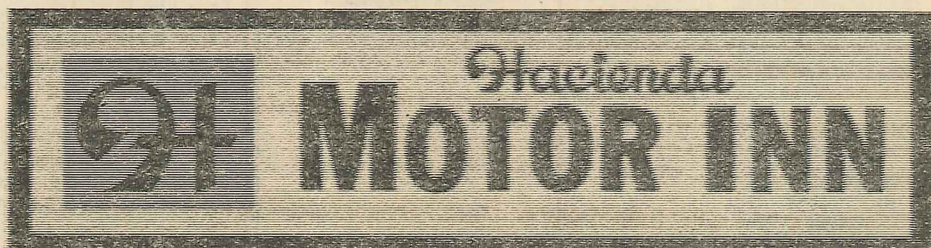
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Conditions were tough for nursing students

Twelve hour shifts, rigid working and living conditions, including personal supervision, were the rule for students who entered St. Mary's Hospital's School of Nursing fifty years ago.

Not only that, but just about every phase of their living conditions, from the clothes they wore, to the hours they spent in bed, were strictly checked. Adherence to rules

was absolutely insisted on.

An hour a day was free each day, plus one half day each week.

Reprinted below is the information given students of the nursing school, under the heading GENERAL INFORMATION.

Two blue gingham dresses. Skirt, plain hem, 6 inches from floor.

Six aprons, made of bleached cotton; width of apron to be

two and one half yard; hem 6 inches; belt; when finished, two and one half inches; two buttons (pearl). Aprons must reach to bottom of dress.

A good supply of plain under-clothing, each piece to be plainly marked with owners name, bag for soiled clothes, small pair of scissors, napkin ring, and watch with second hand.

Nurses must bring suitable clothing for all kinds of weather, and rubber-heeled boots and shoes. If teeth are out of order they must receive attention before coming to the school.

After three months probation, if accepted, the pupil will wear the school uniform which will be furnished at cost price.

Hours of duty for day nurses will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and night nurses from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Pupils will be required to do six months night duty during the course.

Night nurses are to be in bed from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They cannot leave school during this time without permission of the Sister in charge.

Nurses on day duty will be allowed one hour each day for rest and recreation. One half day each week.

Pupils are not to visit patients in their homes. All unnecessary conversation with doctors, patients and visitors strictly forbidden.

A physician of the staff will be appointed to visit the sick nurses. No pupil nurse shall consult a physician or receive a prescription without the consent of the Sister Superintendent. All sick pupils except probationers and those who have entered the school with physical defects shall be cared for in the hospital, but allowance stopped; time so lost shall be made up.

Pupils will not be excused from duty on account of sickness at home, except in extreme case.

After probationary months, pupils will receive \$5.00 per month for their personal expenses, their training being considered their pay.

All pupils are required to be honest, truthful, trustworthy, punctual, orderly, neat, obedient; in a word they are expected to keep in mind the importance of their position and to evince at all times the self-denial, good temper and gentleness, so essential to successful service.

The right will be reserved to suspend or dismiss any pupil or nurse in the school for any cause which may be deemed sufficient by the Sister in charge.

Examinations will be held at the end of Junior and Intermediate years. Final examinations at the close of the three year's course, and, if passed satisfactory to the Board, diplomas will be given.

The right will be reserved by the Board to include or not whole or part of the probationary term in three years' course to make it convenient to arrange examinations.

Probationers will provide dresses of plain blue chambray long sleeves, high neck, (linen collars will be provided at hospital). Length of skirt 6 inches from floor, plain white underwear, two flannelette nightgowns with long sleeves, also undersuits with long sleeves. Please bring a white wool sweater. Applicant must be vaccinated, must have typhoid inoculation and Schick Test for diphtheria. Eyes and teeth must be examined and in good condition.

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50th ANNIVERSARY

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First expansion

Capacity of St. Mary's Hospital doubled in 1949, when a second wing was added to the hospital, making room for a total of 100 patients, rather than the 50 previously possible. Roman Catholic Archbishop of Edmonton, the Most Reverend J. H. MacDonald, officiated at the dedication ceremonies for the new wing, which cost \$300,000 to construct, and \$100,000 more went into equipment.

Taking part in the opening ceremonies were the Rev. Dean Harrington, Dr. P. F. Smith, Mayor R. H. Hume, Reeve Russell Bowes, Board of Trade president Norman Umbach, Sister Superior Mary Alphonse, and Mrs. R. G. Byers, president of the Hospital Guild, both standing behind the Archbishop.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL
ON YOUR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE COMMUNITY.

It is a pleasure to be associated with your institution
on the Joint Health Committee working towards
total community care.

CAMROSE DISTRICT
PREVENTIVE SOCIAL SERVICES
Evelyn V. Nelson, Director

Intense cold hampers opening

The early records of the Sisters indicate that intense cold during the winter of 1924-5 was a severe problem, as they struggled to get their hospital into full service.

One problem developed when the plumber had not the necessary fittings, at first, to connect the sterilizer.

On November 4, 1924, it is recorded that the church was so cold that Mass was celebrated in the priest's house, but four days later on the 8th, was even worse. The wind was so cold and strong that the Sisters were unable to make it to the church and had to turn back.

On December 13, the annals read "The snow is so deep . . . the weather so cold. Cars are not able to run. Dr. Lamb tried for four hours to get a maternity case up from the town . . . was successful after hard work."

All that week, it continued cold. The doctors had to make visits walking until the roads were broken, trains were storm bound in 54 degrees below zero, . . . and the pipes in the laundry burst

What is accreditation?

For most of its history, St. Mary's has proudly acclaimed the fact it has been an accredited hospital, which prompts many visitors to ask what is meant by the term.

Accreditation is a voluntary program, self imposed, which has the safety of the patient as its main objective. Having been attained, it is a symbol which guarantees that a hospital measures up to high standards of operation in every major respect.

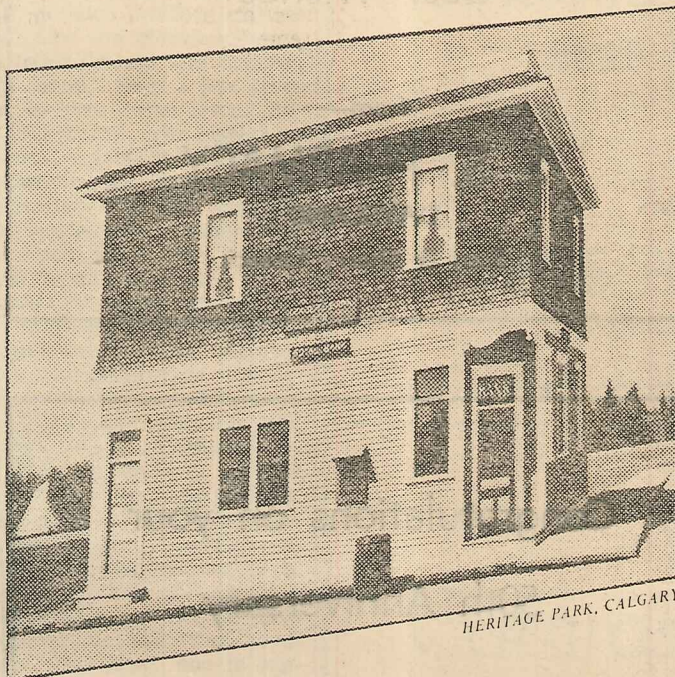
The idea was first conceived by the American College of Surgeons and their standardization program was begun in 1918 as their answer to a very real need to improve the quality of surgical care and education in teaching hospitals.

This program was made available to Canadian hospitals in the mid 1920's; however, by 1950 fewer than 40 of the 2,000 Canadian hospitals had been approved.

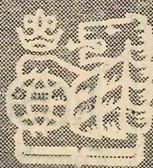
St. Mary's Hospital had obtained provisional accreditation in 1927, and held full accreditation since 1931. Thus it is among the first 24 in Canada to do so.

St. Mary's Hospital 50th Anniversary...

From All of Us -
To All of You!

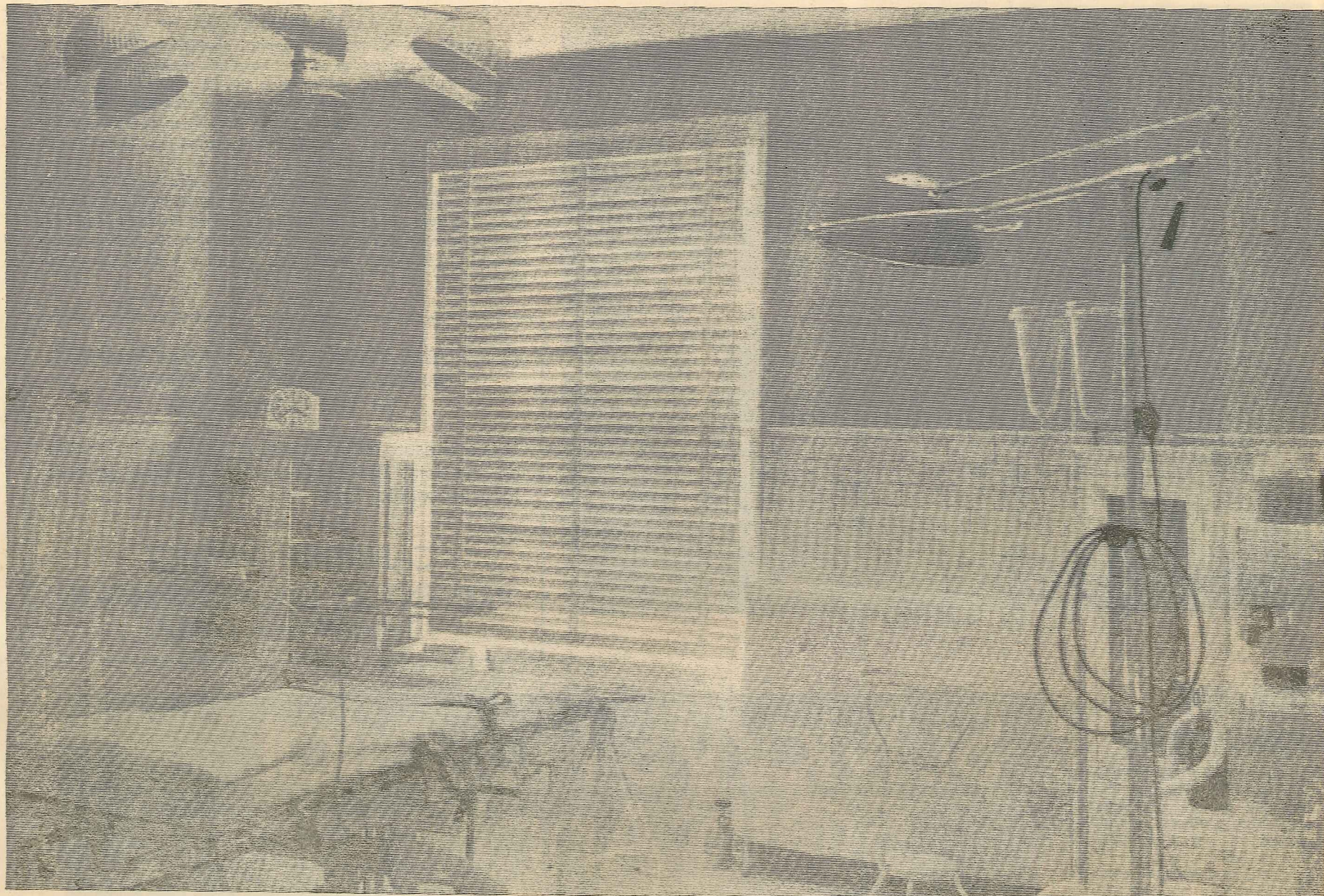


Many Happy Returns



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In days of yore

Anybody working in today's modern hospitals would hardly believe that this was an operating room. But, it was. This

was the first operating room ever set up in St. Mary's Hospital and, despite the bareness, many lives were saved in this room.



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Christmas presents

Tradition at St. Mary's calls for all Christmas babies to be presented to their mothers

wrapped in a huge bright red Christmas stocking. That's a Christmas gift that's hard to beat.

St. Mary's was not the first hospital

With the imposing building and highly modern and efficient service provided by St. Mary's Hospital in 1974, it's sometimes hard to realize that it wasn't always there, or that Camrose didn't have the best service available.

Back in 1965, the Camrose nurses developed a "history" of service in Camrose, to be included in a "History of Nursing in Alberta". Some of the information they presented, together with enlarging items gleaned from other writers, are added to the brief account of events forerunning the opening of St. Mary's here.

The commencement of our history goes back to the coming of the Canadian Pacific Railway and its early settlers. Stories are a plenty of the adventures and experiences of the pioneers in the early days of Alberta's history. The long journeys by ox team and covered wagon, the building of crude shelters, lovingly called

"home", the building of trading posts and railways. These are the things old timers love to talk about—they form the basis of many a novel.

While the men erected the homes, built the roads and cultivated the fields, the women made the homes, cared for the children and nursed the sick. Inspired by the growing needs all around them, the wives and mothers worked long and faithfully for a place in which their young could learn to read and write, a place to care for their sick and injured and a place in which they could worship together.

It is hard for us to realize that a century ago, 1874, to be exact, no such facilities existed. First came the Mounted Police, who today "stand one hundred years proud." Only a few years later, in 1881, came famed Father Beillevaire, who settled at Duhamel, established St. Thomas Church, and helped bring "civilization" to the country, as he brought the warmest love and respect for himself and his church to all knew him.

Slowly the roads opened up. Then in 1905 Alberta became a province, a fledgling member of the Confederation of Canada. Typhoid fever was the most common disease. After the first hospitals were established by the Mounted Police, patients came and went as they pleased, hospitals being little better than rooming houses. Surgical instruments consisted of prob, one pair of scissors and one dressing forcep. Carbolic acid completed the operating room picture. The doctor had to supply all this and his own suturing material as well. Student nurses who entered those early hospitals had to pass an entrance examination in reading, penmanship, arithmetic and spelling.

In 1903, Dr. H. T. Baldwin established a practise in Duhamel and he was followed by Dr. W. V. Lamb, who later moved to the village of Sparling. His home was the present residence of Dr. H. Ferguson, Veterinary-Surgeon.

In 1904, Dr. G. G. Stewart moved from Bittern Lake to Camrose, at that time "Stoney Creek Hamlet". His home just south of Eaton's store, was demolished only about five years ago. The Doctors' offices were in their homes, nursing was carried on by women who had no training except a love

of humanity and a desire to help those in trouble. Both Dr. Lamb and Dr. Stewart remained in practice until the first war.

In 1904, the Canadian Pacific

Railway built a line connecting Winnipeg and Edmonton by way of Wetaskiwin. As settlements began to grow, few medical offices were opened providing

(Continued on Page 8)

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wishes to congratulate
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL
on the occasion of their
50th Anniversary.



Nearly a decade

Well known to patients and visitors in St. Mary's Hospital, as well as far beyond its confines, Sister Rose Bekar is in her tenth year in charge of the hospital. She arrived here August 24, 1965, and under the conventions prevailing in the Sisterhood at that time, was referred to as Sister Mary Dolorosa. Transferred from St. Mary's Hospital in Montreal to take up duties as Superior/Administrator in St. Mary's, Camrose, Sister Rose has played a major role in many of the developments involved in the expansion of five years ago, and has seen the hospital through several periods of strain where staffing, finances, or facilities, created serious problems.

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TO ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL
ON THEIR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

Best Wishes On
50 Years

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Camrose

Congratulations & Best Wishes ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

from—
JACK CARGILL & STAFF
CARGILL PHARMACY
Camrose Centre, Camrose
"YOUR I.D.A. DRUG STORE"

Not first...

(Continued from Page 7)

pioneers medicine in spite of inclement weather and nonexisting roads.

In 1906, the first hospital between Wetaskiwin and Saskatoon was opened in Bawlf. This hospital was served by W. T. McEachern, M.D. who had practiced medicine in Bawlf since 1904. Two additional nurses were recruited in 1907 bolstering the nursing staff to four nurses caring for thirty patients. Among this number was Miss Cora McWhirter who was the first student nurse in the Edmonton South Side Hospital, now known as the University of Alberta Hospital. Miss McWhirter later became the wife of Dr. I. W. T. McEachern.

The Sisters of Providence were first invited to the Province of Alberta in 1909. Amid many hardships a hospital was built in Daysland, to care for the sick, aged and infirm of all creeds and nationalities. It was from this foundation that St. Mary's Hospital, Camrose, was built.

In 1909, a Hospital Aid was organized to raise funds and interest the public in a hospital for Camrose. Through their efforts a Hospital Board was formed on August 19, 1909 and on May 14, 1910 tenders were called for the new hospital which was ready to open its doors on August 11, 1910. Early the following year the first Government Grant of \$631.00 was received. This building was later enlarged and today is known as the Alberta Bible Institute.

The town of Camrose generously donated the land for the structure and the citizens contributed unstintingly towards the undertaking.

It was Reverend M. J. Schmitzler, the first parish priest of Camrose (1914 - 1924) who promoted the idea of a Sisters' Hospital for the district. Reverend P. F. Harrington, parish priest succeeding Father Schmitzler, turned the first sod for the one hundred thousand dollar building in April of 1923.

The same young priest also acted as chairman at the reception for the Archbishop of Edmonton, the Most Reverend Henry J. O'Leary. The Archbishop laid the cornerstone of the hospital at the opening ceremonies, and speeches were tendered by Dr. Nordbye, J. K. Burgess, Mayor Lowry and other officials. Father Beillevaire, now part of the great historical legend of this part of Alberta, also played a very active part in the official ceremonies, along with Dr. P. F. Smith, who had then seen fourteen active years in the medical practice in Camrose.

October 24, 1924 was an historical event in the Archdiocese of Edmonton when His Excellency Most Reverend Henry J. O'Leary solemnly blessed the fifty bed hospital, constructed in brick, modern in design and equipped with the latest accessories. The first Sisters to staff the mission were:

Sister Mary Clotilda, Sister Mary Matilda, Sister Mary Cleophas, Sister Mary Emerita, Sister Mary Gerald, Sister Mary Alban.

First Superior of the Hospital came from the Sisters of Providence Hospital at Daysland, Sister Mary Clotilda. She was followed in 1931 by Sister Mary Pulcheria, in 1936 by Sister Mary Alban, in 1942 by Sister Mary Geraldine, in 1945 by Sister Mary Alphonse, and Sister Bonaventure in 1951, followed by Sister Mary Enda (Kathleen Maguire), followed by Sister Mary Clare (Doran), followed by Sister Mary Dolorosa (Bekar) in 1965, followed by Sister Josephine O'Neill in 1971, followed by Sister Rose Bekar in 1974.

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and Best Wishes

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THE OFFICE STAFF
THE ORDERLIES, AIDES, LAUNDRY,
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who over the past 50 years have worked with pride
to develop and maintain the high standards of
medical care at St. Mary's Hospital.

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Greetings and Salutations

Community, provincial and even national leaders have taken the occasion of St. Mary's Hospital's 50th Anniversary to send them congratulations and greetings have been rolling in from all parts of the country.

Selected from among them are several greetings reprinted here and elsewhere in this paper, most appreciated by the Sisters among which are some of those since they range all the way up to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

Providence our most sincere congratulations on the occasion of the celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the St. Mary's Hospital.

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

Yours sincerely,
J.E. Bradley, M.D.
Chairman

* * *



On behalf of the Commissioners and staff of the Alberta Hospital Services Commission, I am honoured and privileged to extend to the Sisters of



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 city 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 residences 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

* * *

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

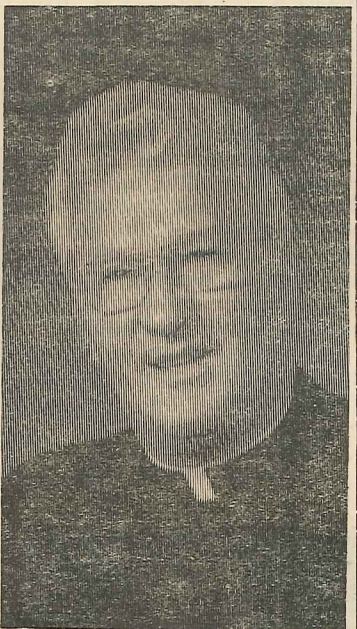
Those whose daily involvements are in the world of sickness and healing, of birth and death, are faced with a special challenge. The problems of maintaining the emotions of kindness and compassion in the face of suffering requires a particular dedication and a constant re-birth of courage and love.

May I extend to you this



word of appreciation for the work that you are doing. I offer each one my best wishes.
Pierre Elliott Trudeau

* * *



Sisters of Providence of Kingston

Congratulations on your fifty years of service at St. Mary's Hospital, here in Camrose. It was indeed a blessing for our Camrose Community and the surrounding area when your Sisters Community accepted the responsibility of Founding, as well as, the Administration and Care of St. Mary's Hospital. Fifty years is a long time but for those who availed themselves of your services, it has, I am sure, seemed like a short time.

Your interest has not been restricted to the hospital alone but has extended to other areas of the Camrose Community, in-

cluding the Parish of St. Francis Xavier. For this we are most grateful.

Your work in caring for the sick has been made a lot easier, with the help of a dedicated nursing and medical staff. May Almighty God in His Goodness continue to fill your hearts

with a desire to help bring health and comfort to those who come to you in need.

As a member of the Hospital Board, may I say a sincere thanks to all of you for your fifty years of dedicated service.

Rev. John Campbell
Parish Priest

BEST WISHES TO
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

WELL DONE!

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FOR 50 YEARS OF DEDICATED
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and Best Wishes in
the Future

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BEST WISHES

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MANAGEMENT & STAFF

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Congratulations



It is a sincere pleasure to bring greetings to St. Mary's Hospital on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

The Sisters of Providence have operated the hospital in a most efficient and competent

manner through the years. They have never called on the local governments for financial support.

As the district grew the hospital grew as well, having built an addition in 1948 and again in 1968 until the building appears as it is to-day.

Shortly after the hospital was built in 1924 a nurses' training program was started which lasted about ten years.

The training was excellent, and a nurse from St. Mary's was highly regarded.

Later a nursing aide program was in operation and proved very satisfactory.

A great number of Sisters have served in the hospital through the years and their devotion and unselfish service have found a place in the hearts of the people and they are loved by all.

The community owes them a debt of gratitude and wish success and good fortune for the future.

Sandy Hutchinson
Reeve, County of Camrose



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.

Sincerely,
Ralph G. Steinhauer
Lieutenant Governor

* * *



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

* * *



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, and for this we are truly thankful.

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

Bob Thirsk
Chairman of the Governing Board, St. Mary's Hospital

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Hospital for 50 years of
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to our community.

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to
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Men's Shop*

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Medical Staff of St. Mary's Hospital

extend

Congratulations and Best Wishes

to the Governing Board, Sisters and Staff of St. Mary's Hospital
on the 50th Anniversary of service to Camrose and District.



Dr. F. M. Smith
Dr. C. H. Smith
Dr. J. H. Young
Dr. R. D. Reikie
Dr. D. B. Baker
Dr. W. J. Siwak

Dr. J. R. Weir
Dr. A. D. Peterson
Dr. D. J. Murray
Dr. K. T. MacQuarrie
Dr. A. G. Smith
Dr. T. M. Corrigan

The Medical Staff is proud of its 50 years of
association with St. Mary's Hospital since 1924,
pioneered by Dr. W. V. Lamb, Dr. P. F. Smith,
Dr. F. A. Nordbye, and Dr. W. H. Craig.

Thank you . . .

St. Mary's Hospital expresses its warmest thanks to the following business firms whose support through generous donations has helped make this anniversary celebration possible.

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Our Sincere Best Wishes
to St. Mary's Hospital

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to Camrose & District

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Our Sincere Congratulations To
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

on the occasion of its

50th ANNIVERSARY

of faithful attendance to the care and well-being of
the citizens of Camrose & District.



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May our best wishes
be with you forever.

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Congratulations and Best Wishes
to
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL
on
their 50th Anniversary

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Many sides to anniversary celebrations

Many features have been planned to mark the special birthday being observed by St. Mary's Hospital this year, culminating months of efforts and planning by the Sisters of Providence and a committee of lay advisors to the hospital.

While many aspects of the anniversary have been marked over a period of the past several weeks, the whole thing has been building to the highlight of three days of special events this week.

Leading off the events was the annual Hospital Auxiliary Tea held at the hospital this afternoon, with a special homecoming program tonight centred around long term and formally retired staff who have had special invitations to this special program for them.

A special anniversary mass will be celebrated Thursday afternoon at 4:30 in St. Francis Xavier Church, and the general public is invited to attend.

On Friday, open house will be held at the hospital itself, from 2:30 to 4:30, for anyone wishing to attend, and view all the facets of the hospital. Then at 8:00, on Friday, a special program titled "50 Years with St. Mary's" will be held in the Charlie Killam Auditorium. This program will include a few speeches, a few presentations, and a good deal of visiting, according to Sister Rose Bekar.

Kjelland Electric

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OUR GRATITUDE TO YOUR DEDICATION
IS BEYOND MERE WORDS

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St. Mary's Hospital on their
50th Anniversary!

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Twenty-five years after its initial opening, St. Mary's Hospital doubled its capacity (to a hundred beds) with a handsome addition which provided fine new operating facilities and much improved accommodation for patients and staff. It was reported at the opening that the new facilities were "thought to be the best between Calgary and Edmonton." Despite strong spring breezes, a large crowd gathered on April 20, 1949, to join in the official dedication ceremonies. Part of the crowd, and the expanded building, are shown above.

Our Best Wishes
for the Future

DR. BERNARD M. CLARKE
O.D., F.A.A.O.
OPTOMETRIST

Congratulations
St. Mary's Hospital

GO TURBO

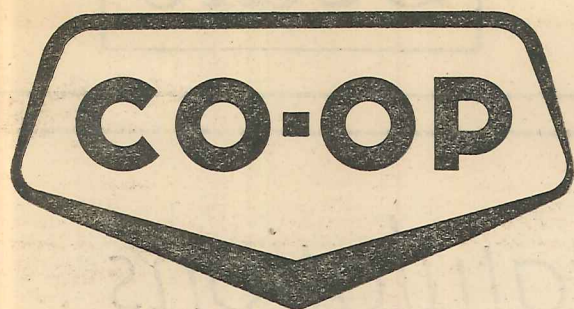
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*Offers their Best Wishes
to St. Mary's Hospital
on the occasion of their
50th Anniversary Celebration*

Greetings, Salutations and



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.

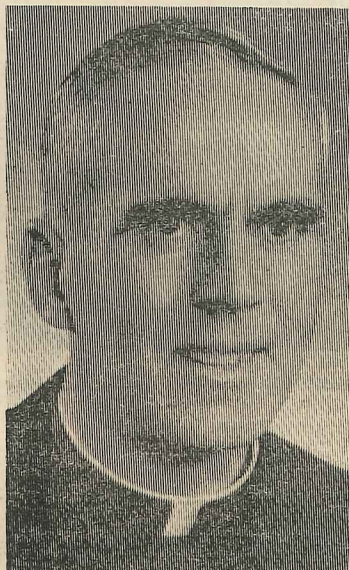
St. Mary's Hospital is not just another institution giving service to our community but is an integral part of our community. It has always had wide open doors to any member of the community, regardless of race, color or religion, who has required its services. To it and to all the many members of its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

Yours sincerely,
The City of Camrose
R. P. Swanson, Mayor

* * *



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

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of efficient service
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Congratulations to St. Mary's
on 50 years of service to
the community.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR
DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Sears

Congratulations

to

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Hospital

on the occasion of the

50th Anniversary

...and Thank You for a long
period of dedicated service
to this community.



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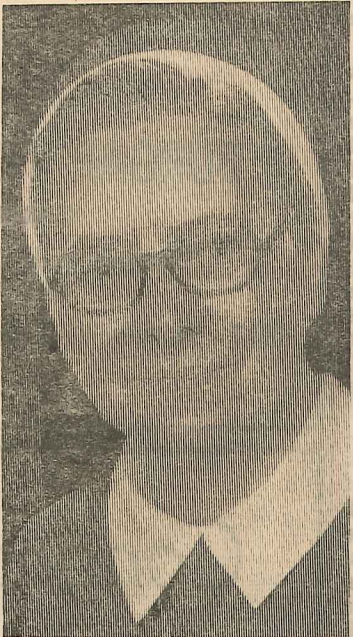
Congratulations

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 fifty years but, more importantly, that you have done so with excellence and with a spirit of kindness. No institution more

health needs of the citizens of Camrose and area.

With very best wishes, I am
Arnold Malone, M.P.
Battle River

* * *



The Sister 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.

* * *



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.

Yours sincerely,
Gordon Stromberg, M.L.A.

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE
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to

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL
on their 50th Anniversary

from—

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on their
50th Anniversary.

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SINCERE APPRECIATION

is expressed by

The County of Camrose No. 22

to

St. Mary's Hospital

for

50 years of exemplary and dedicated
service.

50th birthday for St. Mary's Hospital

(Continued from Page 1)

Congratulations
and
Best Wishes
to the Staff
at
St.
Mary's
Hospital



FROM ALL OF US
AT THE

Windsor
Hotel

ent site in 1954 and its operation is interrelated closely with the hospital at all times.

The next addition came in 1952 when a one-room cottage aptly named "Rosary Cottage" was built as a retreat in which the Sisters could relax. Later, the cottage was enlarged to include a kitchenette and a small dining room.

1954 marked the first year in which the hospital entered a float in the annual Camrose Fair Parade, taking top prize that year and again the next. Outdoor Christmas scenes were being erected at the hospital each year, attracting many viewers and earning the hospital staff many awards during the years.

A Hospital Disaster Plan was established in 1955 with the objective being prepared to handle whatever emergencies might arise. Exercises are held regularly to find weaknesses and strengths. During the gas scare in 1973, the plan was put into effect and ten people were admitted for emergency treatment, its use was obviously excellent.

Another milestone was reached on October 29, 1959, when a Lay Advisory Board was organized. This board consisted of representative citizens of the community who were willing to serve as advisors to the hospital administration. This Board was changed on September 1, 1973 to the Governing Board with power to act, if and when necessary.

Laundry facilities began to present a problem which has to be resolved. As a result, on September 28, 1961, the Rev. Dean Harrington turned the first sod for the new laundry which, ironically enough, was to cost \$100,000 the same amount as the original hospital building. This addition opened on March 4, 1962 and was capable of handling a 150-bed hospital.

A Junior volunteer Group was formed in the fall of 1965 to help carry trays, feed the patients, read and write for the elderly and to assist long-term patients. These volunteers were from 23-28 years of age. They were aided in their efforts when the Candy Strippers were organized in the spring of 1970, this group being composed of girls younger girls (and some boys).

St. Mary's continued to ex-

perience the need for additional space. As early as 1962, the Lay Advisory Board was taking note of the space shortage and presented a brief to the Provincial Government asking for a new addition, leaving the size to be determined by the government.

Approval for the addition was finally granted by Alberta Hospitalization Benefit Plan of the Provincial Department of Health at a maximum cost of \$500,000 in July of 1965. It wasn't until December of the following year, however, that permission was granted to allow the calling of tenders for the actual construction of the new addition. Excavation for the project began on March 21, 1967, with the project being completed and officially opened on May 14, 1969 with the dedication by the Most Rev. A. Jordan, O.M.I., Archbishop of Edmonton with J.D. Campbell cutting the ribbon to open the latest addition to St. Mary's.

When the new addition was put to use, other changes were made in the older section with the final result being the addition of space for 15 new beds and a new kitchen and cafeteria. Because of the rapid strides being made in the battle to fight illness and disease, St. Mary's has not been standing still. Renovations are presently being completed to completely change the x-ray department and furnish it with more modern equipment.

Another dramatic change that is expected to go into operation sometime this fall will be an outpatient dental service. Other changes, including more up to date equipment is being studied for the immediate future.

For fifty years, St. Mary's Hospital has provided for the needs of Camrose and District in health care. With good guidance, proper administration and the co-operation of the people of the community, this care will continue many years into the future.

Congratulations to
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL
on its 50th Anniversary

and
thank you for dedicated service
to our community.

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Congratulations

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over 50 years
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Carry on the good work!



Congratulations
to
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

WAYNE EVANS,
GLEN NELSON
&
STAFF

Camrose
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WE WISH TO EXTEND
OUR MOST SINCERE BEST WISHES
TO THE STAFF OF ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL
on the occasion of the Hospital's
50th Anniversary

May your dedicated service continue
to benefit the community

J. Lawrence
& Co. Ltd.