

# New \$7½ Million Hospital Dominates Springs Skyline

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beds with ease, can be rearranged to go well above that total if and when the need arises.

Sister Cyril said that new hospital contains every modern convenience known in the medical world to provide for diagnosis, treatment and convalescent care of patients. "At such time as advancements are made in medical techniques and equipment we shall incorporate them into our hospital," the administrator added.

General contract for the new hospital was awarded to the firm of Lembke Construction Co. of Colorado Springs, with the Denver firm of Fisher, Fisher and Davis serving as the architects.

Ground breaking at the new hospital site was on Nov. 3, 1955. In the intervening three-year period construction has proceeded without interruption, despite escalation of costs which placed the total expenditure far beyond the \$5,934,620 raised in the financial campaign announced on June 23, 1955.

In the ensuing months, the largest amount ever raised in a campaign in Colorado Springs was attained. The campaign was pronounced a success, based on the construction and equipment estimates given to the campaign officials.

The two largest contributions were made by the El Pomar Foundation and the late Mrs. Penrose, a total of \$3,200,000, and by the Donner Foundation, in memory of William H. Donner, totalling \$237,100.

The original Glockner Hospital was opened in 1889 by Mrs. Albert Glockner, widow of a Pennsylvania native who died before his wishes to create an institution for the care of tuberculosis sufferers could be realized.

The burden of absorbing financial deficits from an institution which averaged 223 patients a year led to a request by Mrs. Glockner that the Sisters of Charity consider taking over the institution.

The Sisters of Charity assumed operation of the hospital on April 1, 1893, with Sister Basilia as the president of the board of directors and supervisor.

the Sisters were financially rugged, too. A duty of the records showed that more than half of the patients admitted were of the non-paying variety.

Sister Rose Alexius succeeded Sister Basilia piloted a community financial campaign which put the hospital on an even financial keel. Sister Rose served until 1919 as superintendent, a 19-year-term.

As community demands for hospital service increased a \$40,000 wing was added in 1903. In 1905 a steam laundry and boiler room were constructed.

In 1908, a \$150,000, three wing addition was completed. The wings are familiar to recent hospital patients and friends, since they have been and are still in use.

Expansion continued, the hospital became known as Glockner-Penrose in recognition of the founders and of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Penrose who became great benefactors.

In 1954 administrators of Glockner-Penrose Hospital were advised by the Accreditation Board of the American Hospital Association that the local institution was granted a period of five years in which to construct a new hospital or completely modernize the wide-apread, inefficient building which had grown beyond the limits of good service, incompatible with its stature as an outstanding medical center.

Temporary, and expensive, improvements were made in the old structure but the Sisters of Charity and their advisory council determined the most practical solution was a new hospital. The result—today's \$7,500,000, steel and concrete, super-modern, fireproof building.

Leaders in the financial campaign to obtain the amount estimated for building the huge structure were Kenneth R. Card, general chairman; James D. Russell, associate chairman; Jasper D. Ackerman, treasurer; Hugh F. Gray, public information chairman; George D. Hutchison, industrial division chairman; Henry E. Heyser, commercial division chairman; Dr. Carl S. Gydesen, doctors's division chairman, and Mrs. I. B. Bruce, woman's auxiliary division chairman.