

McLAREN GENERAL HOSPITAL

October 3, 1951

To the Board of Trustees:

As you know, a schedule of events was planned in connection with opening the new building. Since all members of the Board could not be present at all functions, we would like to make an immediate report as follows:

Wednesday - September 12

The Auxiliary met for a pot-luck luncheon with 170 members and guests present. The cafeteria was not quite finished, but was presentable, and everyone seemed pleased with the tour which followed. Some crowding was inevitable on the ground floor, since contractors were carrying on their work.

Sunday - September 16

The Gideon Society, Flint Chapter, Mr. E. L. Hoyt presiding, conducted a prayer service in the director's office with about 30 Gideons present. Testaments for each bedside in the hospital were presented, as well as 15 Bibles and a Bible bound in white with name in gold letters to Miss Sanders and one to your superintendent. The service was much appreciated, as it started the hospital on its way as an institution seeking Divine guidance, praying that all who render service in it must realize their special calling, endeavoring always to give kind, gentle, and understanding care to patients, be considerate with anxious relatives and friends, deal fairly with each other, and be loyal to associates and to the hospital.

Wednesday - September 19

The first board meeting to be held in the new building was a milestone long to be remembered. The tour revealed much finishing work to be done.

Friday - September 21

About five hundred life members and their friends inspected the building. By dint of untiring work, the furniture, lobby, and four floors in the hospital were ready and made a fine appearance. The committee for the opening, of which Mr. Stewart was chairman, Mrs. Miner, and the hospital administrators are grateful for the splendid work the hospital personnel accomplished in order to make the opening events successful and informative to the people of Flint. It is impossible to mention every name, suffice it to say that we were delighted with the performance, without a single hitch or flaw.

Saturday - September 22

About 100 contractors, workers, and guests visited the hospital. Most of them have been in the building since the beginning, but seemed to enjoy bringing their families, to meet the hospital workers stationed in the departments, and to see the finished results of two years and three months work.

Sunday - September 23

All Trustees were present excepting Mr. Blackinton who was ill at home, and Mr. Kleinpell who was out of the city.

The dietary department, Miss Ford in charge, served luncheon to eighty guests and personnel. It was much appreciated by everyone.

Your Superintendent was indeed happy to take her three brothers, three sisters, nine nieces and nephews, only living aunt, Miss Sarah McLaren, two cousins, three classmates, their husbands and a few close friends through the building before luncheon. The family was photographed under the name at the front entrance.

Sunday - September 23, continued

Those of us who took part in the dedication accepted it as a duty and a privilege. The program started on time and concluded in the estimated time - forty minutes, Mrs. Miner presiding most capably. Mr. Stewart made acknowledgements and introductions. Dr. Longman's prayer of dedication was so appropriate, expressing so exactly what the hospital personnel should strive for, that it is proposed to use it in the hospital handbook.

Your Superintendent introduced Miss Lillian Girard, co-founder with Dr. Lucy M. Elliott of the 808 Harrison Street hospital; Mrs. J. Guy Blackinton, charter Auxiliary member; Mrs. Russell Durler, President of the Auxiliary; Dr. E. P. Vary, Chairman, and Dr. Nell Ward, Secretary, of the Medical Staff. Miss Sanders was introduced as the superintendent elect of the hospital.

Dr. Malcolm T. MacEachern was introduced. His address was excellent. He expressed approval of the building, commending the standard of hospital service in Flint. Dr. MacEachern drew from his vast knowledge of the growth and improvement in hospital care in this and other countries, presenting facts on responsibilities of trustees, medical staff, and personnel, as well as making a comparison of the costs of today and twenty-five years ago.

The Board of Trustees, the Medical Staff, and the hospital personnel were indeed grateful to have Dr. MacEachern give the dedication address.

A great many telegrams, letters of congratulations, and good wishes were received for the Board of Trustees, the hospital, and its personnel. We are certain that no institution was ever launched with more goodwill.

The hospital was beautified by 73 bouquets, corsages, and plants. A list of the donors is enclosed. Mrs. Carl Geiger, Auxiliary member and newly appointed head of the Red Cross Gray Lady Corps for the hospital, received, listed, arranged, and cared for the flowers, which lasted the whole week.

From 2:00 p.m. until eight o'clock on Sunday, five thousand people inspected the hospital in a quiet, appreciative manner, with no confusion or crowding, following the route as outlined and marked off by Mr. Stewart and the committee.

60 Auxiliary members and 30 nurses and other hospital personnel served as guides, and filled stations as scheduled by Mrs. Durler and Miss Weinschreider. Mr. Durler and Mr. Geiger capably assisted in the lobby, starting the tours.

Tuesday - September 25

Everyone enthusiastically prepared for the afternoon and evening. Fifteen hundred people toured the hospital. Again Auxiliary members, recruited and instructed, and placed by Mrs. Durler, acted as hostesses and guides with supervisors and every available hospital employee meeting every contingency attendant upon such a huge and unrehearsed performance. Volunteers ran the two elevators without mishap or delay. Boy Scouts of Troops 6 and 72 directed traffic and all went on schedule.

Wednesday - September 26

This was the last day of the general public tours. Everything went as smoothly as the night before with nineteen hundred people touring the hospital.

Thursday - September 27

The executive staff and board members of the Community Chest agencies and social service organizations were taken through the building in groups by the hospital personnel, the Auxiliary members again acting as hostesses.

Friday - September 28

The administrators of Genesee County Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Hurley and St. Joseph Hospitals were invited for luncheon. The Sisters of St. Joseph were unable to accept, but came later to tour the building as did 200 visitors from other hospitals and hospital supply companies.

A total of almost ten thousand people toured the building in an orderly way during the week, with evident pleasure and generous commendation.

The dietary department under Miss Ford's direction, with many recruited workers, did an amazingly good job of serving the necessary meals and lunches for workers and guests.

The laundry is in full operation, doing the old and new work, and was of great interest to all visitors.

This has been the outstanding experience of a life time for many of us. Some high lights of the week were as follows:

Mrs. Miner presiding at the dedication, and attending all of the functions.

The marvelous assistance and generosity of the Auxiliary president, Mrs. Durler, and her husband, Mr. Durler, and of Mr. and Mrs. Geiger.

The beautiful corsages and plants for the desks sent to Mrs. Miner and five others by the 100 and more members of the Auxiliary who participated in the opening functions.

Olive Hummel's whole family coming from Detroit, and their pleasure in seeing her name in bronze on a door in the administrative suite.

The lawn and shrubbery so well started.

The sunset from the lobby, the view from every window.

The News-Advertiser supplement prepared by Ben Bennett, and the generous publicity in the Flint Journal written by Homer Dowdy.

The photographs by Dan Levi.

The exceptional way in which Mrs. Pearse, housekeeper, and her corps prepared the building for visitors.

Mrs. Prescott, purchasing, with Mr. Van Horn, storekeeper, received, checked, and disposed of ten moving vans of furniture and equipment.

Miss Weinschreider, director of nurses, did an outstanding job in setting up the departments ready for visitors, and manning them during all tours.

Mr. MacArthur's committee, with Elmo Stadler and Boy Scouts and city police, managed traffic and parking without confusion or mishap. The parking lots are adequate and accessible.

Mr. Stewart, Miss Sanders, Miss Harris, and everyone, planned and carried out a successful 'opening week'.



Tuesday - October 9

The Genesee County Medical Auxiliary (Doctors' wives) - invited for tea and tour.

Thursday - October 11

Members of the Flint District Nurses Association, the Practical Nurses Association, and the Future Nurses Clubs - invited for tea and tour.

Friday - October 12

The Genesee County Medical Society is invited with guests from the University of Michigan and Wayne University Medical School faculties, as well as a number of doctors from the Michigan State Medical Society.

For this meeting, which will help materially to gain approval for interns and residents, we would like very much if every Board member could be present.

The letter or card of invitation sent to the members of the Genesee County Medical Society, guest physicians, interns and residents of Hurley and St. Joseph hospitals read as follows:

"The Board of Trustees of the Women's Hospital Association cordially invites you to be present at a dinner in honor of the Genesee County Medical Society to be held in the McLaren General Hospital on Friday, October 12, 1951, at 6:00 p.m.

A tour of the building and survey of the equipment will be held immediately following the dinner."

We are indeed happy at the opening of the new building under such auspicious circumstances. We are hopeful that patients may be transferred from the old hospital on October 15.

Yours sincerely,

*Margaret E. McLaren*

Superintendent