

McLaren General Hospital New Name for Women's

Opening Set For Oct. 15

Long Open House Planned by Board

Women's Hospital will become known as the McLaren General Hospital when it is moved into its new \$2,750,000 building at Ballenger Hwy. and Beecher Rd. next Fall.

The new name will honor Miss Margaret E. McLaren, Women's superintendent for 27 years. The change in name, voted by the hospital board of trustees, will signify that care given in the new building will be broadened from an emphasis on women's cases to all types of illness.

The change in name and Oct. 15 as the tentative opening date were announced today by Mrs. Frederick B. Miner, chairman of the hospital board of trustees.

Contractors in charge of construction believe the new building will be finished by late September, Mrs. Miner said. It is planned to hold a two-week open house before patients are admitted.

In selecting the name, the trustees said many persons had given of their worldly goods to the institution—a few of them having given large amounts—but Miss McLaren's contribution had been more than a quarter-century of personal, devoted service.



Miss Margaret McLaren

service.
Becoming superintendent of Women's Hospital less than four years after graduation from Detroit's Grace Hospital, Miss McLaren has seen the institution grow considerably, despite limited facilities. Women's was moved from a residence on Harrison St. to its present quarters on Lapeer St. only nine months before Miss McLaren, then operating room supervisor at Hurley Hospital, was brought in as superintendent.

She observed her 25th anniversary in the post in January, 1949.

Through the years, Miss McLaren has pointed to the work of others—trustees, auxiliary members, staff, nurse aids and other volunteers—as the reason for the hospital's success.

But friends of the hospital have been less restrained in their accounts of her leadership. When she was graduated from Grace, she received a "degree of proficiency," the first the hospital had granted. As working head of the hospital, she has carried much of the load of planning the new building and expanding the staff from one responsible for 40 patient beds to 243 beds, which the new building will contain.

Miss McLaren is a native of Highgate, Ont., and now is a U. S. citizen. She is past president of the Zonta Club and is a member of the Flint District Nurses Assn. and the Michigan and American Hospital Assns.

When in full operation, the new McLaren General Hospital will care for four classifications of patients, medical, surgical, obstetrical and pediatric. Provision will be made for isolating a maximum of 24 patients.

The hospital will operate under 14 departments. They are: Anesthesia, business, dietary, housekeeping, laundry, medical records, maintenance, laboratory, nursing, personnel, pharmacy, physical therapy, purchasing and X ray. Later, a medical social service department will be added.

Open house of each department will enable persons who contributed to the two building campaigns to see what their gifts have provided for the health of the community.

Women's Hospital was begun as a private clinic in 1917 by Dr. Lucy M. Elliott. It became known as the Elliott-Girard Hospital and when about to be abandoned in 1919 was rescued by a group of citizens and moved into the present quarters on Lapeer St.