

MOUNT AIRY JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB SPONSORES HOSPITAL AUXILIARY TO NORTHERN HOSPITAL
OF SURRY COUNTY

Entering Mount Airy, North Carolina, from the main highway that goes by from the mountains to the northwest toward the industrial piedmont southeast, one is impressed with a large modern building on the crest of a hill. It is the Northern Hospital of Surry County--a 100 bed hospital and 59 bed nurses home and school with the most up-to-date equipment including complete air conditioning. The hospital building itself is imposing not just for its sleek brick walls and concrete window overlays but because of the handsome entrance of white Mount Airy Granite relieved by mosaic tile patterns in the walls, a light terrazzo floor and wide expanse of glass admitting a view of the green lawns with its young trees and the hills and town around.

More important to the hospital patient or visitor is the warm atmosphere created by the willing service of hospital staff, the doctors and the volunteer "pink ladies". The whole picture is one of creative co-operation. All the members of this working group seem to hold the best interest of the hospital and patients as their object.

But behind this scene of co-operation there was a history of conflict and misunderstanding. The well-equipped building might have looked out on a neglected mud field and in upon a scene of discord and strife, with few patients and inadequate financial support.

In order to understand how a community might fail to be proud of such an institution as this excellent new hospital and refuse either to avail itself of the hospital services or to offer assistance in carrying out its program, it is necessary to know the geography and a little of the history of Mount Airy and Surry County.

The present estimated population of Mount Airy is 12,842 and the hospital district is 47,600. More than 99% of the population is native born and of an unusually hardy industrious type. The bulk of the laboring population has been recruited from the surrounding agricultural area where farms are small and families large. Mount Airy attracts many employees from Virginia, less than six miles away. There are 42 manufacturing and processing industries and tobacco is the chief farm product of this area with eight warehouses in the area. Most of the industries in this area are well established and relatively old. There are a few new ones providing a new growth and influx of people in

a rather "set in its ways" community.

Plans for a new hospital grew out of the fire which destroyed Martin Memorial Hospital on May 1, 1953. In early July, 1953 there was a hearing held at City Hall to get views of the public on a bond election and hospital project in general. During the hearing, a Dobson physician said that the citizens of Dobson would not want the hospital to be built in the area north of Mount Airy and the "Main Street"--Persons in the business section expressed their opinion--in favor of locating the new hospital north of Mt. Airy. Pilot Township citizens questioned the desirability of being included in the hospital district. A number of petitions circulated here opposing outlay of city funds for paving and other work necessary on Banner Street, another site, and the Hadley site was favored by many citizens. Nearly 2,000 names were acquired on petitions to require the city to call an election on incorporating the Banner site into city. The Medical Care Commission approved the Hadley property for the site, after the hospital board had rescinded their earlier approval of the Banner property. In the spring of 1955 the Mount Airy Junior Woman's Club announced the appointment of its new Project Committee. This committee was charged with the responsibility of suggesting service projects for this club which has as its basic aims Community Service and Adult Education. With plans under way for the construction of a 100-bed hospital and a 59-bed nurses' home to serve the Northern District of Surry County, the idea of organizing a hospital auxiliary immediately presented itself. Such a group would have limitless opportunities for service to the community and would educate not only the women in skills but the public in general.

The Mount Airy Junior Woman's Club had endorsed the proposed bond issue and various members, among others, had worked to register voters for a bond issue of \$500,000.00. The community's acceptance of its financial responsibility insured a hospital and nurses home at an estimated value of \$1,583,550.00, under the Hill-Burton Act of Congress.

In the fall of 1955 this project was presented to the Mt. Airy Junior Woman's Club by Mrs. J. Howard Hooker, Project Chairman, and the members felt a most urgent and imperative need for the formation of the Northern Hospital of Surry County Auxiliary. The project committee was vitally interested in the club's sponsorship of a hospital auxiliary in order to furnish help for our new hospital wherever their services would

contribute to better patient care and to interpreting the hospital and its policies to the community.

As club members investigated the need for, and purpose of, a hospital auxiliary they found that there was a feeling of hesitancy among a great number of those who would pay a share of the bond but would not have any part in the planning and policies. Members could sense a feeling of jealousy between town and country, among various urban areas, and also felt there might be a problem of getting back those who had become used to other hospitals in the state. The local doctors were anxious over their arrangements since most of them had spent a great deal on clinics, and did not know the extent of their influence on policies of the new hospital, nor did they know which doctors would be included. This last confusion arose from the fact that only a few chosen ones used the old hospital.

Under these circumstances the Mount Airy Junior Woman's Club felt that if ~~they~~ it organized a hospital auxiliary the women could do more to bring about a feeling of unity. Since nurses left following the fire it was felt there would also be a great personal shortage. It was unthinkable to the club that there should be a well equipped building without people to man and patients to use it.

Hospital auxiliaries are now active in most of the modern hospitals in the country and have proved so vital that the American Hospital Association has set up a special committee to encourage and direct their activities. The Mount Airy Junior Woman's Club adopted the organization of the hospital auxiliary as a club project under the Community Affairs Department. A club donation was voted to help defray organizational expenses.

The work of an auxiliary includes such activities as staffing a reception desk, guiding patients and visitors in the hospital, operating a hospitality cart to supply patients with snacks and personal items for their convenience, decorating the reception rooms with fresh flowers and beautifying the hospital grounds, supplying waiting rooms with magazines, sewing and marking hospital linens and other volunteer services to help relieve the busy hospital staff.

A steering committee to be headed by the Mt. Airy Junior Woman's Club project chairman, Mrs. J. Howard Hooker, was appointed with Mrs. Robert Merritt and Miss Marjorie Yokley as temporary chairman and secretary respectively. Mrs. Joe Fowler, Jr., Mrs. Phil Poats,

Mrs. T. C. Britt, Jr., Mrs. Ralph Sykes, Mrs. Hugh Holcomb, met with Dr. M. S. Martin to discuss the organization. The committee felt a lack of interest on the part of certain members of the hospital board. At the request of Dr. Martin material was ordered from the American Hospital Auxiliary headquarters and the N. C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. Mrs. Hooker, Mrs. Merritt, and Miss Yokley met with Mrs. Edd Gardner, organizing president of the Wilkesboro Women's Auxiliary who advised concerning the work and organization. Mrs. Grace Pope Brown, Home Demonstration Agent for Surry County, secured the services of key ladies from Home Demonstration Clubs from each of the nine townships in the district as requested by Dr. Martin. They were Mrs. Glenn Armfield, Stewart's Creek; Mrs. D. W. Hodges, Dobson; Mrs. Carl Jones, Mt. Airy; Mrs. C. J. Carson, Franklin; Mrs. Henry Blalock, Pilot Mountain; Mrs. Carl Simpson, Eldora; Mrs. Earlie Gilley, South Westfield; and Mrs. John Marshall, Westfield.

These ladies met with the temporary officers and Mrs. R. C. Lewellyn and Mrs. Vence Dearmin, members of the Hospital Board of Directors, and pledged their whole-hearted support. When the plans for the Hospital Auxiliary were presented by Mrs. Lewellyn and Mrs. Dearmin at the Hospital Board of Directors meeting it was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Hooker, Mrs. Merritt, and Miss Yokley continued to seek any information and assistance they could obtain. A proposed constitution and by-laws were formulated for presentation and approval at the organizational meeting which was held at the Reeves Y. M. C. A. Community Center May 24, 1956 with approximately 175 women of the Northern Surry District present.

Mrs. Edd F. Gardner, past president of the Auxiliary of Wilkes General Hospital, North Wilkesboro, gave the keynote address, explaining the opportunities for service in auxiliary work. Mrs. Gardner pointed out that hospital situations have changed greatly in the last two decades. "With increased benefits and crowded conditions, the women must help; we get more than ever before from the hospital and they want more from us in voluntary service," she said. "The high concern for the ill has led the women to seek education, information and training so that they can serve on behalf of, and through, the hospital." The group adopted the constitution and elected officers; Mrs. James H. Smith, President; Mrs. Edmund Burke, Vice President; Mrs. Otis Moore,

Secretary; Mrs. Ralph Sykes, Cor. Secretary; Mrs. B. H. Williamson, Treasurer. Elected to membership on the Board of Directors were Mrs. R. H. Sparger, Mrs. S. A. Hennis, Jr., Mrs. G. M. Malmo, Mrs. A. B. Macon, Mrs. Robert Merritt and Mrs. J. Howard Hooker. The following members were elected to the nomination committee; Miss Marjorie Yokley, chairman; Mrs. A. B. Macon, Mrs. J. Howard Hooker, and Mrs. Ralph Sykes. Other committees are; Mrs. Raymond A. Smith, Finance; Mrs. T. C. Britt, Program; Mrs. Robert Iobst, Education; Mrs. Jim Griffin, Ways & Means; Mrs. George Sparger III, Publications; Mrs. Robert Foy, Bulletin; Mrs. E. W. Paddison, Flowers and Grounds; Mrs. J. M. Cheek Holiday Observance; Mrs. I. A. Schafer, Hospitality; Mrs. Garland Warren, Committee on Constitution; Mrs. Ben Graves, Chairman, Mrs. Lucien Wreen, Sr., Volunteer; and Mrs. Kellock Hale, Chairman, Mrs. William K. Woltz, Mrs. John P. Frank, Mrs. Sam R. Vaughn, Membership.

Upon adjournment those present joined the new auxiliary and signed the minutes book as charter members. It was announced that the charter roll would remain open for additional charter members until the hospital dedication was held.

Since the building program did not include the planting of shrubbery, the auxiliary undertook as its initial project the beautification of the grounds. Mrs. James H. Smith, president, and Mrs. E. W. Paddison, Chairman of Flowers and Grounds Committee secured the services of Mr. Robert G. Campbell, landscape architect from Philadelphia and Kernersville. The planting plan was presented and approved by the members. Mrs. James Griffin, Ways and Means Chairman, asked the group to vote on a series of "Vanishing parties" to raise funds to be used for the preliminary planting of the grounds. The planting could be accomplished in full if the parties continued without a break. At the end of these parties the auxiliary had realized \$938.00. The next project was a Harvest Festival held at the Reeves Y. M. C. A. in September 1957. The Harvest Festival included a sale of fresh and canned garden products and baked goods beginning at 10 o'clock in the morning. At 8 o'clock in the evening, a barn dance was held. From this project the auxiliary realized \$758.87.

We feel that such efforts to gain an ever increasing number of participants in hospital auxiliary affairs tended to unify the community in their stand for the hospital administration. We saw over a period of months a decided change, for instance,

in the tone of newspaper articles. You will note from the clippings that ~~the majority~~^{many} of the earlier articles seem to point with suspicion and ^{sometimes} even a suggestion of scandal to the developments. Especially criticized was the method of selecting the members of the hospital board. There was quite a bit of discord evident about the time the hospital appointments were to be announced.

In other clippings you will notice the extreme pride and sense of unification resulting from such developments as the gifts contributed from near and far. Among these was the complete air conditioning of the building given by a foundation in memory of a local couple. Many contributions were small ones denoting the wide-spread interest.

Members of the Junior Red Cross made tray favors. The members of the Beulah Home Demonstration Club made and donated twelve cloth bags to tie on the headboards of beds in the children's section of the new hospital. The V. F. W. and the V. F. W. Auxiliary gave a big American Flag and flag pole mounted on a handsome granite base. An anonymous donor gave three carts for use by the volunteer workers and nurses at the hospital.

The Surry County Tuberculosis Association made a donation to the Northern Hospital of free chest x-rays on all admissions to the hospital. Through the co-operation of the Home Demonstration Clubs women from every corner of the large hospital district

volunteered as auxiliary members. Auxiliary membership grew to a total of 556 women and 234 women took the two hour training course in order to serve on the halls of the hospital.

Garden clubs gave money raised at a flower show for beautification of the hospital grounds and garden club members took the leadership in carrying out the planting.

Women's societies of the churches in town accepted the responsibility for making tray favors each week. In addition to tray favors several church groups have donated money to the auxiliary to be used for the beautification of the grounds. Some rural churches have furnished Sunday School lessons.

One whole Girl Scout Troop joined the auxiliary after hearing about its program and some of these have decided on nursing careers. One Girl Scout Troop planted bulbs and also made doll beds for children patients. Civic groups and individuals contributed material and services toward beautifying hospital grounds. The Junior Chamber of Commerce gave 13 dogwoods; manure was donated by local cattlemen and fertilizer and lime were given by Dixie Floral Gardens.

Lowgap Home Demonstration Club gave a ^{hospitality} ~~literary~~ ~~club~~ which is now being used for patients.

appreciate this service very much. The First National Bank, The Surry County Loan and Trust Company, the Eastern Star, Mount Airy Firemen's Auxiliary and Martin Memorial Nurses Alumnae Association among various other groups donated \$1,000.00 each to memorizlize a room. The Eastern Star, Firemen's Auxiliary and Nurses Alumnae did special projects to raise this money.

*Mrs. M. S. Martin gave a fine library cart and supplies which was stocked with books from many donors. *Next Page*

An anonymous donor has made a gift to the hospital which will provide a continuing donation each year in excess of \$3,000.00 to pay for the treatment of charity patients.

Mrs. Ben Graves, Co-chairman with Mrs. L. P. Wrenn, Sr. of the Committee on Volunteer Service, reported that approximately 350 women had signed to serve in the following categories of work; clerical, flowers, reception desk, patient service, sewing, tray favors and library. Membership is open to any interested at any time. Several services began immediately. To this date 19 life memberships in the organization have been secured. These life memberships are awarded to any who contribute \$100.00 or more.

On November 1, 1957 Mr. John Kelly Lockhart assumed the duties of administrator of the Northern Hospital. As administrator he will, among other duties, coordinate the activities of the Hospital Auxiliary. In his speech to the Mount Airy Woman's Club Mr. Lockhart said, "the Woman's Auxiliary can serve best in two categories; as pioneers in this area to inform the public of hospital procedures and policies, and as volunteers to provide extra services for patients and professionals.

When the Hospital Board named its standing committees they appointed two members from the Hospital Auxiliary to serve, ex-officio on the building and grounds committee. Their duties are to make recommendations as to additions, alterations, repairs and maintenance of buildings and grounds.

The Martin Memorial School of Nursing, affiliated with the Northern Hospital of Surry County, is scheduled to open in September of 1958. At a meeting held August 22, 1957 a School of Nursing Advisory Council was established. Five members of this council ^{were} ~~was~~ selected from the hospital Auxiliary.

The Northern Surry Academy of Medicine welcomed the Hospital Auxiliary into the ranks of those who are working to make our hospital the most efficient possible with ~~this~~

* Purchase of needed oxygen therapy equipment was made possible by a donation to Northern Surry Hospital by the Mount Airy Junior Woman's Club. The fund was used to purchase a "Croupette" therapy tent. This equipment, which resembles an oxygen tent, is used in treating children suffering from asthma, bronchitis and similar ailments. In expressing appreciation for the donation, Mr. Lockhart pointed out that the equipment will serve "as a monument to the club's aim of service to the community", and stated that it was "gratifying to have the support of community leaders in developing hospital service for the area."

this letter of commendation.

TO ALL MEMBERS:

In a recent meeting of the Northern Surry Academy of Medicine a resolution was passed unanimously endorsing and offering congratulations on the formation of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Northern Hospital of Surry County. We wish you every success in your new venture and want you to know, our services are always available to you for any help we may be able to give.

We sincerely feel that your organization makes a long step forward toward the success of our new hospital. Your enthusiasm, interest, public spirit and devotion of time, is highly commendable in making this new institution truly one which belongs to the citizens of this district.

Without the interest which you are displaying, we do not believe the hospital could be successful, or honestly be called a public institution.

We are looking forward to working with you, each and everyone, as soon as our hospital is completed.

Sincerely,

Signed: Charles L. Sykes, M. D.

T. C. Britt, Jr., M. D.

The Northern Hospital of Surry County was dedicated on the 31st of March 1957. At this time the "Pink Ladies" made their debut dressed in the cherry red smocks they wear which have become the national badge of recognition for hospital volunteers. Approximately 300 "Pink Ladies" were hostesses and they guided over 4,000 men, women and children of Mount Airy and other communities for miles around the Granite City through the new 100-bed hospital. Another 4,000 citizens were estimated to have been present but left when they decided not to "tackle" a two-hour waiting line. Members of the Auxiliary also served coffee and doughnuts to the guest.

Governor Luther H. Hodges dedicated the new \$1,850,000 hospital and nurses home and school at the Mount Airy High School and commended the citizens of Surry County for continuing North Carolina's "march of good health."

Recognizing many who had helped, Dr. Martin thanked the hospital Women's Auxiliary

and its Pink Lady service organization. Among the platform guests recognized included Mrs. James H. Smith, President Hospital Auxiliary and Mrs. Otis Moore, Secretary of the Hospital Auxiliary.

Northern Hospital of Surry County daily treated an average of 40 adult and pediatric patients during its first month of operation. Comparison with figures of other area hospitals during the first year of operation revealed that the Surry Hospital had a higher occupancy. Expressing gratification at the results, Mr. Lockhart, hospital administrator stated, "In addition to the best in building and equipment that can be obtained all of us are continually seeking to improve our staff in order to give the best possible patient care. Our aim, of course, is to develop hospital service which will enable the people of our area to be treated by their own doctors near their own homes and families. The patronage afforded our hospital thus far indicates that this aim is being carried out."

Still in its infancy the auxiliary members have much to learn through training and service and much they wish to accomplish. Women who join in this important effort find that doing for others is a richly rewarding experience. They measure the time spent, not in hours, but in deep satisfaction and lasting enjoyment. *Many older women especially have found in the Hospital Auxiliary an opportunity to serve the community.*
In order to cover our service area with a population of 50,000 people, the auxiliary needs the interest and participation of every woman in the district.

Summarizing what the Junior Woman's Club has done in adopting the Hospital Auxiliary as a project and sponsoring its organization it has been said, "A new organization or a new institution cannot survive without the friendly support of the public. Your Club's considerate services have marked your efforts as good-will ambassadors." It is hoped that this auxiliary will inspire the interest and support of all individuals and civic groups that it may be a true community project to help bring to fulfillment the dreams of the best hospital available.

NHSC AUXILIARY

The Northern Hospital of Surry County was dedicated in 1957 and the first patients were admitted on April 3, 1957. The Auxiliary was organized in November 1955 with 55 members under the direction of the Mount Airy Junior Woman's Club. Because the community had been without a hospital for four years, and due to the interest in the new one, the membership grew to 556 by opening day. Some of these members are still active.

In the beginning, fundraising efforts consisted mainly of bazaars and vanishing parties. In May 1961, the Snack Shop was opened and it was run entirely by volunteers until October when a manager was hired. Currently, there are six paid staff people and volunteers often lend a hand. The Gift Shop was opened in March 1984 and is currently staffed entirely by volunteers. Other fundraising projects include the vending machines in the Emergency Waiting area, the 24-hour Flower Machine in the Main Lobby, the Love Light Fund (25 are supported).

The Auxiliary is proud of its history of gifts to the hospital, including the purchase of a blood gas machine for pathology, cardiac monitors, fetal monitoring system, anesthesia equipment, defibrillator for the emergency department, a \$100,000 donation towards the new wing building campaign, new furniture for the main lobby, bone density machine and numerous other gifts.

The Auxiliary also supports a Junior Volunteer program for teens age 14-18. This program successfully teaches students about the career opportunities available the hospital and helps them in their healthcare career path.

Each volunteer is encouraged to join the Auxiliary and to be a part of such a distinguished service organization. In order to join, dues may be paid annually under the following structure:

Active Membership - \$5.00 (actively volunteering a minimum of 40 hours per year.)

Associate Membership - \$7.00 (volunteering, but less than 40 hours per year.)

Contributing Member - \$10.00 (interested in Auxiliary membership, but not actively Volunteering.)

Auxiliary members enjoy such benefits as service pins for hours worked, monthly Auxiliary newsletter – *Second Wind*, invitation to annual recognition banquet during National Volunteer Week, 10% discount on regularly priced merchandise in the Gift Shop, the opportunity to purchase some medications in the pharmacy which may be at a lower cost, free TB testing and free flu and Hepatitis B shots, an Auxiliary patch for uniform and the opportunity to hold an office and belong to an organization that assists the hospital through service and fundraising.