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New Community Hospital Is Dedicated



The Tri-Cities' Ultra-Modern Morehead Memorial Hospital Which the Generous Contributions Of Fieldcresters Helped To Build

Plaques In New Building Honor Fieldcresters For Generous Support In Finance Campaign

As The Mill Whistle went to press Friday afternoon, open house was under way at the new Morehead Memorial Hospital. The building was open for inspection by the public from 2 p. m. to 8 p. m. Friday and Saturday and from 3 p. m. to 8 p. m. Sunday.

The dedication of the new hospital was scheduled for 2:30 p. m. Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. John Motley Morehead, representatives of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission, the architect, contractors, and other dignitaries were to attend the ceremonies.

The new building represents an investment of over \$1,750,000. The hospital building and facilities are considered the finest to be found in this part of the United States. The building is air conditioned, completely equipped and modern in every respect.

The completion is the culmination of efforts that were begun in late 1953 with the incorporation of Tri-City Hospital, Inc. and the purchase of the pri-

vately-owned Leaksville Hospital. A gift of \$50,000 from Marshall Field & Company and a grant of \$45,000 by the Duke Endowment made possible the purchase of the Leaksville Hospital and its conversion to a publicly-owned community hospital.

It was soon apparent that the building and facilities were no longer adequate for the communities' needs. Investigations showed that modernization of or addition to the building was impractical and that a new hospital would be required.

In July, 1957, the trustees authorized a campaign to raise \$500,000 toward the cost of a new hospital. This amount of money, together with available state and federal funds would make possible the building of a 100-bed hospital.

The fund-raising campaign was started September 1, 1957, and at the final report meeting October 8, 1957, it was reported that \$550,571 had been pledged. Since this amount was more than enough to assure the matching by state and

federal funds, an architect was secured and work was started immediately to plan the new hospital. Building operations were started on August 4, 1958, on a choice 20-acre site in the Central Area donated by the Spray Water Power & Land Co. The building was completed April 15, 1960.

Funds From Many Sources

Funds for the project came from the following sources: \$801,200 from the U. S. Public Health Service under regulations of the Hill-Burton Act; \$213,500 from the North Carolina Medical Care Commission; \$432,000 from Tri-City individuals, groups and organizations; \$100,000 from Fieldcrest Mills, Inc.; \$100,000 from John Motley Morehead; \$50,000 from the Duke Endowment; \$11,000 in interest on pledges.

The gift by Mr. Morehead assured the addition of a fourth floor and expansion of the hospital to 112 beds. The trustees later named the hospital in honor of Mr. Morehead's ancestors.

The \$50,000 grant announced by the Duke Endowment in April made a total of \$95,000 received from this source. The latest grant consisted of \$25,000

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