

Renovation Underway at St. Joseph's Hospital

The major renovating and updating program that has been going on at St. Joseph of the Pines hospital in Southern Pines for the past two years made notable progress during 1964, reports Sister M. Virginia, the hospital's administrator.

During the past year, the hospital has completely remodeled and renovated two floors, adding this work on the third and first floors to similar work done on the second floor in 1963. Two large fire escape towers have been built—one at each end of the building. A new entrance on the south side, with adjoining driveways and a new parking lot east of the hospital, have been constructed and mercury lights have been installed in the public area of the hospital grounds.

COST OF THE PROGRAM has been around \$230,000 in the past year, it was reported, bringing to about \$300,000 the amount spent on improvements at the hospital in the past two years.

In addition, it was announced that work began recently on a separate project not being financed by hospital funds: the conversion of the former circular entrance lobby to a chapel, given by Mrs. Leon Baker of Southern Pines in memory of her late husband, Dr. George W. Matheson.

Because of the influx of patients at this time of the year, Sister Virginia said, work on the long-range renovation program of the hospital is now confined to the non-patient areas of the building.

TENTATIVE PLANS call for continuing the renovation program in the coming year, with a reworking of the fourth floor of the five-story structure as the main anticipated project.

A major improvement affecting the whole building is a new hot and chilled water heating and air conditioning system that will give year around temperature control. Another change completed in the past year, benefiting all patients' rooms, is piping of oxygen, from an outside source, so that it is immediately available for any patient in the hospital.

On the main (first) floor of the building that was the Pine Needles Hotel before it became a hospital in 1948, the lobby and office section, along with other facilities have been completely worked over. Terrazzo floors have replaced the original wood flooring. Heavy vinyl wall coverings have been installed, along with marble paneling that is the gift of an anonymous donor. On this floor, there are a new snack bar, patients' library, administrative facilities and waiting areas.

Work on the third floor during 1964 was similar to that done on the second floor the previous year: widening of the hotel-size doorways to hospital size, permitting beds to be rolled in and out of the rooms; terrazzo floor and baseboards throughout, a new call system for patients, to summon nurses and centralized TV service to each room. The floor was remodeled to provide a new nurses' station, waiting area for visitors near the elevator, a treatment room and doctors' dictating office.

THE FIRE AND SMOKE protective and preventive measures installed at St. Joseph's have been approved by the North Carolina Insurance Commission and the Medical Care Commission. The large, external tower stairways were added as a supplement to formerly existing fire escapes and are wide enough to easily permit evacuation of non-ambulatory patients. The original fire escapes also remain.

The new towers are fabricated of heavy gauge steel with metal treads resting on 12 inch vertical beams. Spandrel beams were added to carry the weight of lacy masonry screening that adds beauty to the practical structure.

An additional measure is addition of two sets of fire doors on each floor corridor. These doors have automatic closers that can separate each hall into three isolated sections, to confine any possible smoke or fire hazard to a minimum of space.

The various fire protection measures put the hospital in the highest possible category of fire safety, it was stated.

THE NEW ENTRANCE in the center of the building's south side is the originally designed



NEW ENTRANCE — This aerial view shows the new driveways and entrance (center) to St. Joseph's Hospital. The former entrance was at extreme left of building as seen here. The access road at right is also new, leading in from the Southern Pines-Carthage highway. A new parking lot is out of the picture, toward the right. (Hemmer photo)



IN NEW LOBBY — Shown is the main entrance lobby at St. Joseph's Hospital, just inside the new south entrance, with new terrazzo floor and marble paneling. The whole first floor has been completely renovated. (Story and photographs through the courtesy of The Sandhill Citizen, Aberdeen, N.C.)

front entrance to the building, but has never been used as such until the recent remodeling. A new portico extends out to the oval paved driveway that encloses an area almost as large as the building and connects with an access road from the Southern Pines-Carthage highway.

The new parking area is located east of the hospital. So that the extensive grounds of the hospital would not be defaced by an unsightly parking lot, a median strip was left, and this strip, as well as a deep border around the lot and drives, is being planted with holly, dogwood, mountain laurel and other shrubs.

The building became St. Joseph of the Pines Hospital in 1948 when it was acquired by the Diocese of Raleigh and was staffed by and put under the direction of Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, a Catholic nursing order with headquarters at Maryville, Mo. Sister M. Virginia, the present administrator, was one of the original group of Sisters coming here to take over the hospital at that time.

IN APRIL, 1962, the hospital ownership was transferred to the Order by the Diocese of Raleigh, and the Order now both owns and operates the facility.

LEWIS DRUG STORE

Drugs — Sick Room Necessities
Prescription Carefully Compounded

149 West Avenue
Dial 933-2187
Kannapolis,
North Carolina

SEDGEFIELD LANDSCAPE NURSERY

"Specialist in
Landscape Beautifying"
Free Estimates

Dial 299-5529
5000 High Point Road
Greensboro,
North Carolina

NICHOLS CLOTHING COMPANY

153 N. Main Street
Dial 786-5493

Mount Airy
North Carolina

DRUG CENTRE INC.

The REXALL Store

121 N. First Street
Phone YU 2-6612
Albemarle,
North Carolina

HUNTER PUBLISHING COMPANY

Yearbook Publishers — Commercial Printers
Typesetters

333 Indiana Avenue Phone 725-8361
Winston Salem, North Carolina

OAK HALL HOTEL TRYON, N. C.

Traditional Southern Cuisine — Special rates for traveling and weekend guests — most reasonable hotel. Church near. All sports and diversions.

Melvin's

Glenwood Pharmacy
GLENWOOD VILLAGE
RALEIGH, N. C.

Telephone TE 4-6236
Weekdays—8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday—12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

MOORE FUNERAL HOME

24 Hour Ambulance Service

104 E. Jordan Street

Brevard,

North Carolina

8A

NORTH CAROLINA CATHOLIC

Edition of Our Sunday Visitor

February 7, 1965