



MEMORIAL GENERAL HOSPITAL

Lenoir Voters Will Have To Soon Decide On Acceptance Of Kinston's Newest Hospital; Brief History Here

(Continued from last week)

As Kinston grew and as it became recognized more and more as a medical center for Eastern Carolina, Parrott Memorial Hospital, which was written of here last week, began to feel the pressure of its size, just after World War I the main part of the building that one sees when approaching it down Gordon Street was added to the original dwelling home of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. McDaniel, which had made up the first hospital in Kinston.

With more people seeking more medical attention it was natural that more doctors came to make their homes and take up their offices, Lucius Parr and Jimmie Parr, original owners of the hospital, after an unsuccessful period of operating it under conditions of a gift by the McDaniels, were assisted by two of their nephews, Doctors Albert and Mercer Parrott, and from the older Parrotts ownership was completely passed onto the younger staff members.

Operating as a private hospital, it was perhaps inevitable that all the doctors who came to use the medical center, could not long agree with each other and by the mid-twenties a serious breach had developed between the Parrotts and several of the other doctors practicing there.

One result of this misunderstanding was deep differences that still have hangovers today and not too infrequently today these old asbes of a long ago squabble flare up and singe the whiskers of those who get too close or too nosy about what went on back there.

Another happier result of this inability of the doctors to get along under the same roof was Memorial General Hospital, which is pictured above. Six of the doctors who had been unable to get along with the Parrotts banded together in spirit and finance and on November 13,

1925, the first patient was admitted to this new hospital on the corner of College Street and Rhodes Avenue.

These doctors were Paul F. Whitaker, Charles Mangum, J. Garves Poole, Vance Peary, Stanley Whitaker and Floyd Wooten. Only Wooten and Poole remain active in the operation of the hospital today.

At completion the "New" hospital, as many older Kinstonians still call it, had a capacity of 29 beds. A series of expansions have now brought the hospital's capacity to 73 adult beds and 12

bassinettes. On one day during the war 110 persons were lodged in the overflowing rooms and hallways of the hospital.

Today 15 doctors are on the staff of the hospital, which is now operated by the Eastern Carolina Hospital Association. This association has operated the hospital since 1928, and has owned it

since 1938 when it made final payment to the original builders.

In 1928 after three years operation, the doctors who built the hospital found that they were less competent business men than was necessary to the successful operation of a growing and expensive plant such as a hospital. The fiscal affairs of the hospital were in sad shape, due to poor doctor-management and lack of system.

In 1928 the non-profit association was chartered and leased the hospital from its owners. By 1938 the association had progressed to the point that they had made the final payment to the original owners and had also expanded the hospital to accommodate many more patients.

As present the assessed valuation of the property at this medical center is over \$300,000. The directors of the association have made the final payment on the indebtedness incurred by the expansion program and today, for the first time in the history of the hospital it is not only out of debt but has a tidy balance to its credit in the bank.

But happy as this situation may sound, the situation is anything but bright. The kitchen and operating facilities at the hospital were designed to take care of a 25-bed hospital so it is obvious that they are most inadequate to the job they are being forced to perform today.

The original wing of the building is not fireproof and is in a precarious condition. Even with the continued use of this older wing the hospital does not have

enough room space to take care of the flow of patients at all times.

(To be continued)

WEDDING 'BELLS'

By Mary Belle Stott

During the Thanksgiving holidays two couples in the lower end of Jones County were united in matrimony. In each marriage one of the newlyweds was from Maysville and the other from Stella. Even more of a coincidence was the fact that each of the newly united young folks had a "Bell" or "Belle" in his or her name, and if you notice the writer of this story is Mary BELLE Stott. The couples were Annie BELLE Williams, who became Mrs. Nolan BELL Jones, and Dora BELLE Waters, who became Mrs. Walter BELL Wetherington.

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