

50 YEARS OF CARING

A Narrative History Of Annie Penn Memorial Hospital

By Carol M. Jordan

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## FOREWARD

"He who knows not the world, knows not his own place in it."

Marcus Aurelius

On a Sunday evening during the writing of this history I took time away from working and walked down Main Street, just to get my thoughts clear and to breathe the late summer air. The sky had taken on that crystal blue coloring of an October day, though it was early September, and I was entranced by the beauty of the scenes around me.

Three blocks down the street I approached a construction site opposite me. Next to the structure going up was the hospital on the right. I paused to reflect this edifice which was undergoing drastic change. This was Annie Penn, a hallowed place in my own mind. For I had toiled and struggled for weeks to record her story for others to glimpse her as I did. The hospital was no longer an arrangement of bricks, mortar and glass where I went when my daughter was stung by yellow jackets or when I had pulled some muscles while moving or where I had given birth to my two children.

This was a living structure with people, stories and memories to tell about. I observed the old entrance above the front lobby. The student nurses had stood out on those front steps for a class portrait. They had walked down the street to the nurses' home where they would dress for a party at the Penn's lake. I pictured Jefferson Penn riding in his canary yellow Oakland Sports Roadster along Main Street in front of the hospital. No doubt, a decade later on the cameramen from Universal Studios would be lugging their gear up the steps to film the four little girls who were born the week before.

The stories spanned decades and raced through my mind as I gazed at Annie Penn that evening. I understood the meaning of this hospital in my life in a way I had never even contemplated before. Before this history I had known it as the place my father always was when we waited to open Christmas gifts or blow out the candles on a birthday cake. I did have an unusual viewpoint of the hospital by being a doctor's daughter, having heard the story told through the eyes of a worker there. My emotions had probably been wrapped up in this building for as long as I could remember--at least since I was nine years old before I even lived in Reidsville. My father had driven the road between Madison and Annie Penn several times a day for years before I ever saw this place that beckoned to him.

Yet, on that day, a quarter of a century later, I saw those portals for the first time. On that recent day I felt close to Annie Penn and the people who have comprised her history. I had met many of these people and had grown to appreciate their lives and their contributions. And there are those whom I never saw face to face and yet, they lived in my mind from the stories and evidence of their work. They gave to me a treasured gift--a half century of living history. And still there was more. The story was so overpowering that it could not all be written within the bindings of this book. Much of it was within me and within the people who had experienced it--this story surpassed mere words. Many of the stories were missing from the files and remain unknown to us. Many of the stories were told from recollections alone and there may be discrepancies because of the lack of documentation. However, the importance of an oral history far outweighed in my mind the disadvantages of being unable to trace the accounts through newspaper articles and documents which were unavailable.



There is a place in the world that we must all find for ourselves and for those things that we hold dear. I attempted to show that Annie Penn Memorial Hospital was involved in the world, that the effects of the Great Depression, World War II, the Space Age and historical events and advancements in technology were all related to the community hospital. I felt compelled to tie together the stories of our hospital with the far reaching occurrences around the globe, for I do believe that "no man is an island entire unto himself." Nevertheless, I discovered that my goal was beyond my reach in many instances. Thus I was forced to leave much untold.

Annie Penn Hospital has been in my mind, my heart and in my dreams for several weeks now and though fatigue overcomes me, I will hold her close to me through having formed a never-to-be-forgotten bond with the past and the present.

Carol M. Jordan  
September, 1980

## IN THE BEGINNING

In those early days before a hospital in Reidsville the ride was rough to Danville to Hughes Memorial Hospital. Depending on the mode of transportation a patient would either ride over 28 crossings of the railroad or travel by the train itself. Or the trip might just as easily be by train to Greensboro to Saint Leo's Hospital. For complicated cases the ride would be to Richmond, Virginia or Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland. Before 1920 all travel to these hospitals was by train.

"I had my tonsils out in 1910 and I went to Danville," recalls W. B. Pipkin, member of the Annie Penn Memorial Hospital board of trustees for 31 years and honorary member since 1976. "My tonsils grew back in and I had them removed again in 1916 at Reeves Infirmary on Sycamore Street in Greensboro. I went by train both times and I'm sure my mother stayed with me."

Frank Penn, whose grandmother the future hospital in Reidsville was to be named for, remembers that he had pneumonia as a child before the hospital was built. "I had pneumonia when I was four years old and had to go to Danville. Pneumonia in those days was deadly," he stressed.

"Why, when anybody fell and broke an arm, the doctor would just have to put one hand on one shoulder and pull the arm back into place. That was it," William C. Stokes, board member for many years, remembers.

And the stories of traveling to hospitals in other towns or being unable to get the help that was so badly needed are endless.

As early as 1921 there was ambulance service provided by the local funeral homes. But the service was costly to the patient, even at three dollars, or five dollars a trip. Transporting a patient to Greensboro was \$15 or to Durham, \$25. "Nobody had any money," said Pitt Wilkerson, who "stayed on the road all the time" carrying patients in the ambulance.

That there was a need for a hospital there is no doubt. And it was this glaring need that prompted the Charles A. Penn and Jefferson Penn families to purchase property on Main Street and provide generous donations for the construction of a hospital for Reidsville and the surrounding vicinity. Yet Annie Penn Memorial Hospital would be built during years that were trying and hard, the Great Depression.

## THE BIRTH OF A HOSPITAL

The announcement was made by the Chamber of Commerce on Friday, June 7, 1929 that "plans are underway for the construction and equipment of a modern, fireproof hospital of 50 beds on the Johnston property near the bend in Main Street. Rumors have been current for several months that such an institution was possible for Reidsville and vicinity but the final decision in the matter was only reached a few days ago."

Generous donations by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Penn and Mr. and Mrs. T. Jefferson Penn, "for whose mother, the late universally beloved Annie Spencer Penn, the institution will be named" in the initial sum of \$25,000 each "assured its immediate construction." This initial sum would be added to again and again by the Penn family for many years..

"The public at large will welcome this announcement, for the need of a modern hospital here has been acute for many years," the announcement continued. The cost of such construction, including equipment, was estimated at well over a hundred thousand dollars,

Later the building construction alone was estimated to be \$60,000. In a letter written by Dr. S. G. Jett in March of 1932 to George W. Hill, president of American Tobacco Company in New York, a figure of \$146,000 was named as the actual cost of the hospital, lot, nurses home and equipment.

In August of that same year the contract for the new hospital was awarded to P. L. Anderson of Danville, Virginia. The architect was Bryant Hurd, also of Danville. Dr. T. W. Edmunds, a Danville eye, ear, nose and throat physician and husband of the widow of

Harrison Penn, "took care of the work of having the structure built." Dr. Edmunds became manager of the new hospital from its opening ceremonies until January 26, 1932. The original contract called for the construction to be completed in seven months as of April 1, 1930. The target was missed, but only by a month, so that the three-story concrete, steel and brick institution stood awesome and mighty by May 11, Mother's Day, of 1930.

"May I present this hospital to the entire Piedmont section of Virginia and North Carolina for the good of suffering humanity of all classes, color and kind," Jeff Penn stated at the dedication ceremony.

Engraved across the front entrance was the name "Annie Penn Memorial Hospital." And standing behind that marker were 20 young women attired in crisp, starched uniforms, ready for the beginning of study, learning and most of all, caring. The first and only class of student nurses posed for a class picture - the Class of 1930, for they would not be able to finish together,

"The entrance to the hospital had a beautiful front yard," reflected Lillian Coleman, a member of the first student nurses' class. "We would take patients out there when they could be up in a wheel chair. We would walk them over the lawn."

A semi-circular walk led to the double front steps which opened to the second floor lobby. A portion of the front entrance can be seen today above the current lobby facing Main Street.

"There were two magnolia trees at the entrance," remembered Elizabeth (Sears) Jones, nurse on the maternity floor for 21 and a half years. "The emergency room was right under the front steps. And I remember the beautiful geraniums in urns on each side of the entrance. But the steps going up were hard on elderly people."

An oval circle in the back also served for bringing people to the hospital by ambulance.

The reception room was furnished with pieces from the Jefferson Penn home and contained the hospital office, switchboard and waiting area for visitors.

The hospital contained 50 beds and six bassinets for babies, with telephones in 12 of the rooms. Rooms were private, semi-private and there was a "white ward" that was "well furnished and done in green," according to the opening day newspaper account.

The first floor also housed the black patients in wards, for it would be some 30 years before integration of both staff and patient services. Also on the first floor were a kitchen and dining rooms. "White patients' trays have silver service with the exception of cups and saucers. Each piece is engraved with the initial 'P', a gift of the Penn family. It is a most elaborate service." Thus read the description of the kitchen facilities from a 1930 newspaper article, which continued to elaborate on the modern and efficient dining and kitchen area.

Also on the first floor were X-ray room and a laboratory,

On the second floor were regular rooms, linen, alcohol and drug "closets" and also a "sun porch for the colored patients,"

The operating rooms were on the third floor with a nose and throat room, the delivery room and a general supply room as well. Above the third floor were two open sun porches and a closed solarium decorated in green wicker.

"I'll never forget the sundecks. There were lots of windows and a big open fireplace and an electric Victrola," added Pansy Evans, nurse in the operating room beginning in 1936. "We had Christmas parties in the solarium sometimes."

Annie Penn Memorial Hospital was initiated quite well that first day on May 11. Appropriately the first baby born at the hospital came on the first day, Mother's Day, to Mrs. F. S. Seay of Route 1, Reidsville. Dr. S. G. Jett delivered the baby boy, who was named Edmund Penn Seay after Dr. Edmunds and the hospital itself. In addition to the new baby, three tonsillectomy patients were admitted that first day under Dr. Edmunds with Miss Louise Perkins of Lindsey Street (Mrs. Francis Wright of Ruffin) the first surgery patient. She was 20 years old at the time. Wilma Carroll Miller was operated on the same day and Mrs. Wright remembers that a child was also operated on. Dr. William S. Hester performed the first appendectomy on May 12. By the end of June that first year there had been 156 patients treated at the new hospital.

The list of contributors to the new hospital was long and included private individuals and civic clubs. Members of the Penn families donated equipment and furnishings as memorials to their deceased loved ones. Other citizens followed their example and donated rooms as did the Rotary Club and the Business and Professional Women's Club,

"A room on the first floor when the hospital was opened was given in memory of my stepfather, the Rev. Marcellus Walker," said Mrs. Gillie Salters, the first black Reidsville native to be employed as a nurse at Annie Penn in 1933.

From the generous spirit of the citizens and civic clubs it was apparent that the new hospital was embraced by the entire community as a "long-felt want," as voiced in 1930. Plans and services rendered were short-lived, however. For the effects of the Great Depression were beginning to catch up with the struggling new hospital.



### III

#### THE NAMESAKE

"... and though he died, he is still speaking."

Hebrews 11:4

The life of Annie Spencer Penn speaks today as vividly as it did 63 years ago--through the deeds of love, kindness, healing and caring rendered by those who serve the institution that is her namesake.

"She was a saint on earth," Sudie Price of Lawsonville Avenue remarked without hesitation. "She was one good person, one of the best. They couldn't have given it (hospital) a better name."

Annie Spencer Penn came to Reidsville in 1875 from Spencer, Virginia where she was born March 1, 1848 to David Harrison and Mary Dillard Spencer. Paul A. Schoellkopf, her grandson, told of her riding off "on horseback during the War Between the States in 1862 to be educated at Salem Female Academy, now Salem College." The restored Annie Spencer Penn Alumnae House at Salem is the house where she and other students stored their saddles. She returned to Spencer from Salem in 1865 and married Frank Reid Penn of Penn's Store, Patrick County, Virginia on November 27, 1866. There were 10 children born to Annie Spencer and Frank Reid Penn.

And it was their move in 1875 to Reidsville, North Carolina that began a loving relationship between the local people and the woman who would come to be known as the inspiration for the name of a hospital some 13 years after her death on April 23, 1917. It was the love that Annie Spencer Penn openly gave to her fellow man that prompted the writer of her obituary in The Reidsville Review

in 1917 to say of her that "Mrs. F. R. Penn" was "the most universally loved woman in Reidsville,"

Her husband founded the F. R. Penn Tobacco Company and his wife went about doing good, while at the same time enjoying "a full life of children and family," according to her grandson, Paul Schoellkopf. She was known by all as 'Miss Annie' and she was turned to by people from all over for help, counsel, love and for prayers, even those in jails. "Speaking of my grandmother's children, we have often been told of the two sittings required at lunch and dinner because of the numerous offspring and because her many relatives came to stay for two or three months," continued Schoellkopf.

"There was one house between me and her. I used to go see her at least once everyday, maybe two or three times," added Sudie Price. "The Penns were fine people. Mrs. Penn was the organizer of North Scales Street Church of Christ. And she carried me down to be baptized in the pond at Edna Mill."

W. Benton Pipkin was only a child when 'Miss Annie' was living, but he remembers going to her house.

"I knew her slightly. She died in 1917 and the way I got to know her was that her grandson, Edrington, and I used to go down there and play once in a while. She lived on East Market Street immediately across from the tobacco factory. The homeplace is down now. She was a lady tremendously concerned with the welfare of others," he said.

A woman who was loved because she loved, Mrs. Penn spread her faith, her dedication and her life to those around her, Indeed her death brought the entire community to mourn the loss of their friend.

"It was with sorrowing hearts that the townspeople received the intelligence of Mrs. Penn's death in Richmond, Virginia. Much apprehension had been expressed at the ultimate outcome of her illness but no one was really able to grasp the fact that Mrs. Penn, the great noble soul, who had known grief to its uttermost, and yet was ever ready with sympathy and comfort to others, was never again to be seen in our midst," stated her obituary. "As an advocate of all that was Christlike, she had broad scope for her influence and was revered by man, woman and child alike. Next to her own intimate circle of husband and children the tenderest and sweetest interest of her life was given to the poor and the colored people of the town. To them she was no 'Lady Bountiful' who dispensed charities with gracious air, but their own friend who loved them and gave them her ever ready council and sympathy, who prayed to her God for their comfort and relief, who never sent one from her empty of heart or hand. These bore witness of their love and sorrow by thronging her house, her yard, and beyond as far as one could see, patient people with grief laden eyes waiting to pay their last respect to one who had meant so much to them."

Among the mourners was one Rev. Marcellus Walker who spoke of the help and encouragement given to him and his church by Mrs. Penn. Thirteen years later upon the occasion of the opening

of Annie Penn Memorial Hospital there would be rooms dedicated to the memory of Rev. Walker.

A poem was read at her funeral at the Christian Church. And in this poem was exemplified the life of Annie Spencer Penn.

"The House By The Side Of The Road"

by Sam Walter Foss

"There are hermit souls that live withdrawn  
In the peace of their self-content;  
There are souls, like stars, that dwell apart,  
In a fellowless firmament;  
There are pioneer souls that blaze their paths  
Where highways never ran;  
But let me live by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.

"Let me live in a house by the side of the road,  
Where the race of men go by--  
The men who are good and the men who are bad,  
As good and as bad as I.  
I would not sit in the scorner's seat,  
Or hurl the cynic's ban;  
Let me live in a house by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.

"I see from my house by the side of the road,  
By the side of the highway of life,  
The men who press with the ardor of hope,  
The men who are faint with the strife.  
But I turn not away from their smiles nor their tears--  
Both parts of an infinite plan;  
Let me live in my house by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.

"I know there are brook-gladdened meadows ahead,  
And mountains of wearisome height,  
That the road passes on through the long afternoon  
And stretches away to the night.  
But still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice,  
And weep with the strangers that moan,  
Nor live in my house by the side of the road  
Like a man who dwells alone.

"Let me live in my house by the side of the road  
Where the race of men go by--  
They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong,  
Wise, foolish--so am I.  
Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat  
Or hurl the cynic's ban?--  
Let me live in my house by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man."

Minister Duke C. Jones, who now lives in Newnan, Georgia responded in the form of a letter to the life of Annie Penn and her influence on the hospital and the community as a whole,

'During my first visit and revival meeting in Reidsville in 1934, I was introduced to Mrs. Penn, not in person but by reputation. I wish I could have known her in her beautiful and influential life. Wherever I went I heard words of praise for 'Miss Annie' or 'Sister Penn.' To this day I continue to hear her name used in sweet appreciation for her kind, sacrificial and helpful life. In Henry County Virginia, where she originally lived, I learned of her sweet and useful life.

"Truly, she was a dynamic motivator. Because of her faith, she was greatly responsible for the organization and early growth of the North Scales Church of Christ. Her picture decorated a wall in the pastor's study until the building was destroyed by fire. Memory of her dedication, of her steadfastness and love for the Master's work continue to be an inspiration. Ministers who worked and worshipped with her spoke in love of her exceptional qualities in her home and church.

"I have not known a mother more highly respected and loved than Mrs. Penn. In loving memory of their mother, her children supported causes she loved. Her children supported the Church of Christ as long as they lived. The family had a big part in erecting the present building.

"Her family seemed to catch her spirit, They continue to lift high banners of right and usefulness. The Annie Penn Memorial Hospital is a witness of her childrens' and grandchildren's love, lives and influence. It seems that the entire community is moved by her great life."

"There is a Bible passage that says 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, They shall rest from their labors and their works do follow them,' Those who knew Mrs. Penn believe she deserved rest and is at rest. Her motherly concern and neighborly giving of self continue to inspire giving of gifts and the giving of labors of love, Truly her steadfastness in purpose, her activities in love and her faith in God will live on the hearts and appreciation of every generation. Her works do follow her."

"The Annie Penn Memorial Hospital not only represents Mrs. Penn who cared but a great community who continues to care. Over the many years I've known the works of the hospital, it has been an institution of mercy, relief and health. Those who contribute to its ministry are angels of mercy."

Duke C. Jones  
August 25, 1980

## LOUISE BIRMINGHAM NURSES' HOME

At the same time the hospital was constructed, the Pink Johnston home was moved back 200 feet and became the Mary Louise Birmingham Nurses' Home, named after the nurse who had attended Mrs. Jefferson Penn.

"I cannot delve back into history without a word about the first nursing home named for Mary Louise Birmingham, a family nurse who attended me at the time of my birth and who had so much to do with my upbringing during the next 14 years," stated Paul A. Schoellkopf, grandson of Annie Spencer Penn, on the occasion of the Past Presidents Appreciation Dinner April 16, 1973. "She was a true example of the Florence Nightingale type of nurse, an honor to her profession, a true saint."

With the opening of the hospital, a nurse training school was also opened and operated until the hospital closed in 1932, at which time it did not reopen again.

"We all came here innocent and naive. We hadn't been out in the world at all," remembers Lillian Coleman, who was a member of the only nurses' class at Annie Penn. "I came from Baltimore and was headed for Memorial Hospital in Danville. But I came to Reidsville. When the hospital opened we had to set up furniture. There was a lot that wasn't done. The nurses in those days did everything. We scrubbed floors and walls and there was a personal touch."

There were perhaps 25 or more student nurses in that first class who lived in the Birmingham Nurses' Home and had their classes there while getting their practical training at the hospital. For a year and a half these young women strived toward their nursing degrees. Dr. William Hester, Dr. B. F. Cozart and Dr. S. G. Jett taught classes to the student nurses.

'Dr. Cozart and I came down and taught them at night,' recalls Dr. William Hester, who is retired from his post as surgeon now. "I had anatomy (an hour class) at night in the old nurses' home. It had been the residence of Mrs. Johnston. I had an old skeleton from my medical days and I had that in that room (classroom). We had class twice a week and Dr. Cozart had it for two nights a week too," Dr. Jett taught the nurses pharmaceuticals or Materia Medica.

The supervising staff and operating staff were at Annie Penn before the student nurses arrived, and Mr. Coleman remembers that some of the students stayed in the hospital until the nurses' home was ready for them. William C. Stokes recalls that some of the nurses also stayed at the Rockingham Hotel located where the old United States Post Office, now the new Municipal Building under renovation, stood.

"American Tobacco Company used the Rockingham Hotel as a dormitory for girls who operated the machines when they (ATC) first started manufacturing cigarettes. Some of the nurses stayed there too when the hospital opened. They moved to the Birmingham Nursing Home when it was ready," said Stokes, who was a member



of the Annie Penn board of trustees for over 25 years. "It was necessary for the hospital to provide housing for the nurses."

The Birmingham Nurses' Home had a beautiful entrance hall with two classrooms on the left. On the right was the parlor, and the furniture of the rooms was of cream-colored metal. The student nurses lived there, had their classes there and went to the hospital for the practical.

Nursing in 1930 involved some practices that are not used in 1980 out of sheer necessity to deal with the problems of that period in history.

"We had to know every medicine then, the origin, the derivatives and we had to work out our own dosages," said Mrs. Coleman who is one of two living in the Reidsville area from the original student nurses' class. "There were no pain pills in those days, and no narcotics except morphine and pantapón which were limited to two or three days after surgery unless there were complications. And pneumonia patients almost 100 percent got better through nursing care, using mustard plasters and constant turning to keep the lungs from filling up. There were no antibiotics."

Nurses worked 12-hour shifts with a half day off a week. Shifts ran from 7 to 7. The pay was five dollars a month and room, board and uniforms, with the meals furnished in the hospital dining room. Silver service was furnished by the Penn family.

But in spite of the long work week there were occasions that are remembered by the nurses and the staff through the years. The midnight meal was perhaps the highlight of the day.

"The night hospital supervisor and the orderly prepared the midnight meal," continued Mrs. Coleman. "Sometimes we'd have visitors at night. It was more like a little social hour, even though we only had a half hour. There were a couple of police officers on duty at night who came by and some of the local boys would come over to visit."

Nurse Elizabeth (Sears) Jones also remembers the midnight meal as a nightly feature when she came to Reidsville in 1939. "The orderly, Ed Mays most of the time, would go down and get the keys and open the kitchen. On rare occasions I'd get him to make some homemade biscuits which were the best I'd ever put in my mouth. We'd put the food out for the night nurses and while we were eating Ed would go to the main office on second floor. When a patient's light came on for first, second or third floor, he'd go to the second floor kitchen and buzz the dumb waiter. One ring meant first floor, two rings, second and three was for third floor,"

Other times of fun and fellowship were remembered by Mrs. Coleman during that first and only nurses' training class. "We went to parties at the Penn's lake off the Danville Road. And Dr. and Mrs. McGehee also invited us to their home. Of course, we walked everywhere."

And there were times of going fishing or going riding in open roadsters. There were rules and regulations for the student nurses and they risked being campused if they broke the rules,

"We respected our supervisors," added Mrs. Coleman. "No one was called by first names on duty. We were friends with the nurses but called them Miss . . ."

As a reminder of the days of the student nurses there is a Pier mirror hanging in the hospital lobby today that had hung on the wall at the nurses' home in the hallway. All the girls did their primping in that mirror before they went out.

Once on duty the student nurses worked diligently at tasks that today are divided between nurses and aides. There were two nurses on the floor when the students were training back in 1930 and their work included a morning bath for every patient, linen change, a back rub three times a day, faces and hands washed before each meal and if the patients were uncomfortable, the beds were straightened also.

There are names and faces of student nurses who come to mind today. Some cannot be traced, while others keep in touch frequently through letters or calls. And there are two who are in Reidsville, Lillian Coleman, who still practices nursing, and Inez Saunders Knight, who has retired. Others are deceased.

The second Christmas the nurses were in training at Annie Penn, a tragic event interrupted the holiday period for one of the young students.

Mary Carter Fulton had come as a student from Winston-Salem and on Christmas Night she waited for her father to come to Reidsville to pick her up. She waited for a long time and her father didn't arrive.

"We had a radio," said Mrs. Coleman, "and she sat there listening to the radio and waiting for her father to come. He didn't come. Then a patient came in who had been changing a tire and had been hit by another car. He was mumbling and we heard him say 'Carter', It

was Mary's father. He died a day later. That was one of the most tragic things that happened to one in our training school,"

Virginia Bryant Hewlett, a member of the Annie Penn student nurses' class, was among thousands imprisoned during World War II while serving as an Army nurse with the American troops at Corregidor when it fell to Japanese invaders. For three years she was a prisoner of war before being released by American troops in 1945, at which time she was found "alive, emaciated, and weighing only 80 pounds," according to the newspaper accounts of her release. She has since died.

There was a closeness among the workers at Annie Penn,

"There was a friendship, a fellowship among the doctors and nurses. You were interested in the patient because there was time," reflected Lillian Moore Coleman,

The students were not allowed to finish together, however, because of the circumstances of the times. The opening of the hospital came during the Great Depression and only a year and a half later the doors of Annie Penn Memorial Hospital closed.

"When the training school closed, we were told it was closing and we were placed in other schools. Some went to Winston-Salem to Baptist Hospital, I went back to Baltimore and finished at Saint Joseph's. Others went to Emergency Hospital in Annapolis, and it closed, So they had to go on to other hospitals, We all scattered," reminisced Mrs. Coleman,

## ANNIE PENN FALLS ON HARD TIMES...THE GREAT DEPRESSION

"The hospital started at the worst possible time," stated William C. Stokes.

All over the nation the effects of the times were felt during the years preceding the opening of Annie Penn and all through the next decade. A prosperous period of several years during the 1920s began to take a downward swing so that by October 24, 1929 a stock market crash started a movement that would continue for two years. What came to be known as Black Thursday was the beginning of a chain of events that led to the Great Depression. Stories of unemployment, bankruptcy, bank failures, factory closings, mortgage foreclosures and food lines filled the headlines of newspapers all over the country.

Black Thursday was only seven months prior to the opening of Annie Penn Memorial Hospital May 11, 1930 as a privately operated institution. And the times would soon catch up with the hopes and dreams of the community hospital Reidsville needed so badly.

Reidsville was more fortunate than many communities in that there was a steady payroll from American Tobacco Company, according to W. Benton Pipkin. The doors of the tobacco factory did not close and that steady employment afforded Reidsville somewhat more stability than other neighboring communities.

"But we had our licks," Pipkin went on to say, "Relatively we were fortunate, but it was purely relative, People simply couldn't meet the bills, and through no fault of their own."

The office of William C. Stokes was located next door to the Whitsett Building which now houses J. C. Penney on Gilmer Street. During the Depression the American Red Cross had offices in the Whitsett Building and Stokes recalls seeing people line up for food.

"I can remember what is now the equivalent of food stamps, And the Red Cross distributed surplus butter and eggs and also flour, meal and lard. People would come up there in wagons and A-model Fords," he said.

At the A & P as late as February 1933 sliced bacon was 15 cents a pound; Campbell's tomato soup was three cans for 19 cents; whole milk cheese was 15 cents a pound; sliced loaf bread was 10 cents; four pounds of shortening, 25 cents; round and sirloin steak were 12 1/2 cents a pound and pot roast was 10 cents a pound; six pounds of Red Bliss potatoes were 25 cents; lettuce was five cents a head; and a 98-pound bag of flour was \$1.83.

At Montgomery Ward silk stockings were 69 cents and a sport roadster Chevrolet at Reidsville Motor Company sold for \$485,

With the opening of Annie Penn at "the worst possible time", the days of the Depression deepened both nationally and locally,

In 1932, as a reaction to the times, cities were going bankrupt all over the United States and there was also rioting, North Carolina Governor O. Max Gardner was prompted to caution citizens of the danger of "violent social and political revolution." To further complicate the crisis bank failures were growing in number, More than 5,500 banks in the U. S. failed since the stock market crash and the public began to hoard gold, causing it to vanish from vaults at a rate of \$20 million a day.

Of America's 18,569 banks there were approximately \$6 billion in cash to meet \$41 billion in deposits. Thus banks were forced to liquidate mortgages, and securities to raise cash suffered heavy losses.

Reidsville had two bank failures, both by the same bank. United Bank and Trust, a branch of a Greensboro bank, "went under" in December of 1931, according to W. Benton Pipkin,

"United Bank closed here and was reopened within the next 12 months," said William C. Stokes. "And the procession continued."

Stokes also recalls the first failure of United Bank in a vivid story of racing to Martinsville, Virginia with two other Reidsville citizens to make a pick up of money from Federal Reserve to avert a possible run at First National Bank, a run that never occurred.

"One morning about 4:30 James Womack, who was cashier at First National, called me and said, 'Come down here at once, I need you.' I said, 'Where are you?' He said, 'In the bank. Come on down. I need you.'"

Stokes went down to First National Bank which stood on the corner of Scales and Gilmer streets opposite United Bank, a vacant lot today. He was greeted with an unusual situation when he came to First National's door,

"James Womack, D. F. Mayberry and Abe Womack were sitting in the bank with three pistols in front of them on the table. He (James Womack) said, 'United Bank is not going to open this morning. Federal Reserve has arranged for us to pick up \$200,000 in cash from First National Bank of Martinsville, Virginia. The three of you are going to get it and be back here by 9 O'clock,'"

The drive to Martinsville today might take 45 minutes. In the Thirties the drive in an A-model Ford was a two and a half hour drive at best.

"We really drove in that old A-model Ford," said Stokes. "I was driving and I didn't know what to do with a pistol. When we got there money was stacked everywhere in bags. Federal Reserve had told us not to count it, that the people in Martinsville would have it counted. We stacked it in the car and got back here at half past eight. The money was placed behind the cages and they (First National) did not have a run."

Within seven months United Bank and Trust reopened after numerous campaigns in the community to subscribe for the necessary stock. On July 1, 1932 the bank was back in business. But by February 10, 1933 the bank closed its doors for the second and final time.

In the meantime Annie Penn Memorial Hospital had also fallen upon hard times. The financial situation at the newly opened hospital worsened with the dark days of the Depression.

"It was tight," recalls Dr. William Hester, surgeon at Annie Penn when it first opened. "When the stock market crashed everything went and I'd started my career right in the middle of the thing. When the hospital closed, people had to go elsewhere."

"The hospital was opened and run by Dr. T. W. Edmunds," continued Stokes. "They (the hospital) had borrowed money from a mortgage bank, Nolting Mortgage Company of Richmond, of which I was agent. The Depression deepened as time went on and the hospital closed on account of an inability to meet the mortgage. The mortgage note on the hospital was \$25,000 when it closed."



In a brief one-column story on February 1, 1932 of The Reidsville Review, Page 5, the headline read "The Temporary Closing Of The Local Hospital."

"The Annie Penn Memorial Hospital ceased temporarily to operate when on Sunday afternoon (previous) the hospital staff and the last patient left the institution as a result of receivership proceedings instituted a week or 10 days ago in what it presumed to be an effort to re-adjust the affairs of the hospital and place it on a more stable and serviceable basis," stated the story. The article also mentioned that William C. Stokes was appointed as temporary receiver for the institution.

And immediately the loss of the closed hospital was felt, "That the hospital has gotten into business entanglements there is no doubt. But the need of the institution for the care of the community's sick and injured and the great necessity for it to function without interruption is a responsibility that falls upon the shoulders of community leaders," the story continued.

The shoulders on which the responsibility fell were strong and determined, although the efforts were not realized as quickly as desired by the entire community. Much time was needed to work out the details of the reopening, For a short period the hospital was "placed in the hands of Drs, J, W, McGehee, S, G, Jett and M. P. Cummings as receivers to serve without compensation." Nevertheless, this arrangement proved unsatisfactory and the doors remained closed until the necessary backing was secured.

## VI

### ANNIE PENN LIVES ON...THE DOORS OPEN AGAIN

Immediately upon the closing of Annie Penn Memorial Hospital, local citizens and the practicing physicians began striving for the reopening of the institution that had, in such a short period of time, become a vital part of the growing community.

"Mr. W. B. Wray (who was to become first chairman of the board of trustees) busied himself to get money from Duke Foundation to open it," said William C. Stokes. And the list goes on of the numbers of people who devoted their time and their efforts toward the reopening of Annie Penn.

In a letter Dr. S. G. Jett enlisted the help of American Tobacco Company President George W. Hill in securing funds from Duke Foundation as well, by requesting that he use whatever "influence with any members of the Duke Foundation Fund whom you may know to assist to reopen the hospital in Reidsville, which was closed on February 1st."

Annie Penn Memorial Hospital had made itself felt in the core of the community, and life without the services of a hospital became a grim reminder of the years in the past. Dr. Jett went on in his letter to stress the urgency of reopening the hospital.

"I feel that a hospital is as essential to a community as a church or any other institution, and that this community needs a hospital as much as any place I know of for the handling of the sick."

Fifty years ago Duke Hospital in Durham opened July 19 (1930) less than two months after Annie Penn Memorial Hospital opened originally on May 11 in Reidsville. The benefactor of Duke Hospital was James Buchanan Duke who had created the Duke Endowment December 11,

1924 for the purpose of assisting certain institutions in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Included in those institutions were "nonprofit hospitals in North Carolina and South Carolina for operations and for improving and expanding facilities." Ironically the two hospitals celebrate their fiftieth anniversaries in the same year, and it was that same fund that enabled both hospitals to further their caring of the sick.

Duke gave reasons for providing financial assistance to hospitals through Duke Endowment:

"I have selected hospitals as another of the principal objects of this trust because I recognize that they have become indispensable institutions, not only by way of ministering to the comfort of the sick but in increasing the efficiency of mankind and prolonging human life. The advance in the science of medicine growing out of discoveries, such as in the field of bacteriology, chemistry, and physics, and growing out of inventions such as the X-ray apparatus, make hospital facilities essential for obtaining the best result in the practice of medicine and surgery."

Through the tireless efforts of local citizens and physicians Duke Endowment was enlisted to supply \$50,000 initially to enable Annie Penn to reopen as a nonprofit hospital, thus furthering the hope of James Buchanan Duke of carrying on the "ministering to the comfort of the sick,"

At the same time that Duke Endowment was being contacted for financial backing, First National Bank of Reidsville was also assisting in the negotiations for the clearing of old debts.

"Mr. (James) Womack did a lot of leg work in opening the hospital and that had to do with the clearing of debts. He spent a great deal of time going all over, negotiating to get the hospital clear and free of debt," stated W. B. (Dud) Apple Jr., current First National Bank president. "He worked with the hospital (on board of trustees) until his death in 1963. I have heard him say that Reidsville deserved a good community hospital and that the bank was interested in assisting in providing a good health care facility."

During the negotiations for the reopening of Annie Penn, the national and local financial situation was worsening. The first bank failure had already occurred in Reidsville and the second was on the way. The week of November 21, 1930, just six months after the hospital had originally opened, four banks closed in neighboring Stokes County. Months later all the banks in Greensboro were closed, forcing citizens to travel to Winston-Salem for their banking.

Governors in 17 states had declared bank holidays by March 1, 1933. During the same month of 1933 Minnesota and Kansas banks were closed, and North Carolina and Virginia were on the verge of closing all banks. At this particular point Herbert Hoover was about to leave office and Franklin Roosevelt was about to come into office.

"Used to, everybody blamed everything on Mr. Hoover," added Sudie Price of Lawsonville Avenue, who was a friend of Annie Spencer Penn.

"Then in March of 1933," said W. Benton Pipkin, "there was a bank holiday. We paid off in scrip, a substitute for money. During the holiday you couldn't get any currency and we resorted to scrip."

Dateline New York on March 8 of The Reidsville Review read "What Is Scrip?" Readers were informed as to how to obtain scrip and how to use it. "Bales of the freshly printed emergency currency are being prepared for distribution...A depositor appearing at a bank to cash a

check would be given the certificates to the full amount of the check. (Scrip) would also be the money in which pay checks were cashed and would be accepted by merchants, landlords and railroads instead of the old currency." This plan was drawn up, but was never implemented as a national policy.

Nevertheless, towns were without enough cash for change in stores in many parts of the country. Various forms of "money" were used to substitute for the "real thing," Banks in some areas paid off in IOUs of small amounts which were good at the local stores in those areas. In some locations newspapers and cities had to issue scrip and in Toledo, Ohio even the bootleggers agreed to accept scrip.

For three days in March, North Carolina banks were closed for a bank holiday, opening up again on Wednesday, March 8.

"These were the prevailing conditions and how desperate they were," emphasized Pipkin. "It was a real achievement to reopen at that time--about the bottom of the Depression. That's about the week I paid off in scrip." Edna Cotton Mill paid its employees in scrip on this occasion.

While the state and the nation struggled with the Depression, Annie Penn Memorial Hospital had found a means of opening the doors again--through Duke Endowment and the clearing of debts.

On Wednesday, March 1, headlines read "Local Memorial Hospital Opened Today," The hospital was "closed a year ago after a very useful life" and the opening was "an event long anticipated and hoped for by the people of this section...The web of debts and complications which closed its doors on February 1st have been cleared away and the governing board believes the newly regulated institution will be one of the most efficiently operated hospitals in the South."

Thus it was that a critical period in the life of Annie Penn Memorial Hospital was weathered by the citizens of the community, who saw it reopen under the Duke Endowment and the financial aid of fellow citizens as a nonstock, nonprofit hospital.

Dr. Jett, who had been so relentless in acquiring aid for the reopening of the hospital, became general manager and superintendent serving without pay. Local citizens and business firms subscribed enough funds to provide a small working capital in addition to the \$50,000 from Duke Endowment. The first chief of staff was Dr. J. W. McGehee and the first chairman of the newly formed board of trustees was Mr. W. B. Wray. A hospital administrator would not be appointed until 1945. There would be no nurses' training school in the newly organized hospital with the nursing staff consisting of only graduate nurses.

The Depression years had not drawn to a close in the nation as of yet. Nevertheless, Annie Penn had managed to survive the crisis.

## VII

### REMEMBERING ANNIE PENN., REMINISCENCES

Fifty years ago nurses, doctors and patients experienced life at the hospital in a way that was drastically different from the complex technology of today's medical facilities. Nevertheless, what may have been missing in sophisticated equipment and procedures was compensated for in the time and the care given to the patients. Annie Penn was considered modern for its time and combined with the dedication of the doctors and nurses, the result was one of long lasting memories for those who still live in the Reidsville area.

In 1930 the life expectancy in the United States was 60. During the next 30 years life expectancy increased to approximately 70 years due to great achievements of medical scientists.

During this period in many hospitals anesthesiologists were limited to chloroform which was later replaced by ether. In 1929 Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin. However, not until 1941 did a team of workers at Oxford under Howard Florey develop methods of production and extraction and bring it to the United States. It would also be several years before sulfa drugs would be used. Meningitis killed 95 percent of its victims and pneumonia was often fatal. Viral infections then were serious.

President Calvin Coolidge's son developed a blister on his right foot while playing tennis in 1924. An infection spread over his body that could not be combatted, for there were no antibiotics even for a president's son. He died. And in 1926 Rudolph Valentino, the famous silent screen star, died from a combination of peritonitis and pneumonia.

Hospitals were fairly inexpensive, yet almost no one had hospital

insurance. Blue Cross wasn't approved by the American Medical Association until 1933 and most patients stayed at home unless they were critically ill.

In 1933 Mrs. Gillie Salters graduated from L. Richardson Hospital in Greensboro and came back to her hometown of Reidsville to begin practicing nursing at Annie Penn as the first black Reidsville woman to be employed by the hospital.

"When I was there we worked 12-hour shifts and Sunday the time was divided up. Now the nurses have aides. We didn't have aides much then. I did have one aide who worked with me. I remember we used mustard plasters for congestions and for pneumonia. That was before we had antibiotics and patients used to stay in bed after surgery a long time. We used to have a lot of phlebitis. Now they get them up right away," Mrs. Salters recalled.

She also remembers that there was no blood bank. The nurses had to take the blood from the donor and mix it in a flask with a solution to keep it from coagulating, while at the same time warming it with a hot water bottle until it reached the recipient. After surgery milk and molasses enemas and asafetida enemas were given.

"We didn't have IVs like now. We used to give clysis just under the skin and it would be absorbed," she continued. "And then we used to give a lot of pre-school clinics for tonsillitis. We used to take out a lot of tonsils. We would do clotting time on them before taking them in those early days."

Nor was there a pharmacy in the hospital in the early days. Medication was called in at the local drugstore to be brought in for



the patients. Gardner Drug used to offer coupons with delivery of medicine that could be redeemed for silverware. Mrs. Salters today owns a set of silverware she collected from the coupons.

On a national level, the Children's Bureau reported in 1933 that one in five American children was not receiving enough of the proper things to eat. Predictions were made of greater susceptibility to infections, lower vitality, slower recovery, stunting, more organic disease and a reversal of gains against tuberculosis, Medical care for the poor was sketchy and doctors were hard hit financially.

"We didn't think about getting a surgical fee," stressed Dr. William Hester. "I'd get chickens, hams, something to live on,"

Dr. T. E. Forbes agreed with Dr. Hester's remarks, although he did not come to Reidsville to practice until 1944. Nevertheless, patients paid in chicken, ham and eggs according to Dr. Forbes.

"We didn't have any money until fall, We depended on crop time when the tobacco was sold. If there was a bad crop, we didn't get paid. And we worked six days a week in the office with Saturday the biggest day," said Forbes.

"People didn't go to the hospital unless they absolutely had to because they didn't have any insurance," said Pansy Evans, nurse in the operating room from 1936 until 1976 when she retired, "The flat rate for the delivery for 48 hours, which included the delivery room and a private room was \$25, The nursery was one dollar a day. The nicest rooms were \$5 a day,"

All over the nation hospitals could never fill the private rooms

that helped to pay for their charity cases, with the result that they had fewer patients than they do now, but sicker ones. Annie Penn fell in line with the nation with the five-dollar rooms being "seldom occupied," according to recollections of former Administrator J. W. Harbison.

Mrs. Evans' schedule was quite hectic with her 12-hour shift encompassing duty in the operating room, working on the floor when not in surgery and obstetrics.

"I was on call too," she continued. "I had to get up in the night, I was the only one on call for several years there. We scheduled operations in the morning unless there were emergencies. After I'd get through operating, I'd come out on the floor and work because we didn't have much surgery. If I was busy with surgery somebody from third floor had to come back and help with delivery. We didn't have recovery then. We had to take them to the room and the nurse would sit with them."

When Pansy Evans began nursing in 1936 on the floor, she was paid \$45 a month. She received a five dollar increase when she moved up to the operating room.

She does remember vividly one of the fringe benefits of living at the Birmingham Nurses' Home. On Sunday mornings the nurses who were not on morning duty were treated to breakfast in bed served on trays with linen cloths and napkins.

Mrs. Salters also recalls that there was no insurance for the patients when she began practicing.

"I've seen it change. Used to be when I was there they didn't have any insurance and the patients were the real sick ones. They didn't come in as much for diagnosis or rest. Sometimes we would have

problems with the visitors because they would come from the country and bring their lunch and sit all day. The nurses today don't have as much time to do the little things that we did," she said. "Little things like combing their hair and things like that. Now they can only do the pertinent things because they don't have time."

Generally the types of surgery done at Annie Penn in the Thirties were in the form of gall bladder surgery, hernia, tonsillectomy, appendectomy and goiter surgery,

"I did a lot of surgery in the removal of goiters," stated Dr. Hester. "It is not seen much anymore because of the iodine in the salt. Goiters were intricate jobs because you had to stay clear of the nerve or the patient couldn't talk again. Of course, there were not as many here as in the midwest where the iodine was stripped from the ground in the glacial area,

"I did not put them to sleep and I used nitrous oxide and Novacaine. I had them so they could talk to me and when they were talking I knew I didn't get that nerve," he continued,

Not until the mid-Forties was there air conditioning in the operating room. Before that time the nurses kept a pan of ice water in the operating room and they would wipe the surgeon's face. Also instruments for operating were furnished by the surgeons themselves. Some of the instruments used by the surgeons at Annie Penn in the Thirties are still at the hospital.

Dr. Hunter Moricle, who returned to Reidsville to practice at Annie Penn several years later in 1945 reiterated that the operating room was not air conditioned and that, though there were fans, the windows could not be opened because of insects flying in.

A drastic difference in procedures during the early days of surgery at Annie Penn and the present day is "early ambulation" according to Dr. Moricle. "Then a hernia patient took two or three weeks to get up and they would stay in the hospital 10 days to two weeks and then stay in bed at home. Today we get them out of bed the same day," he said. "They now stay three to five days in the hospital,"

Closely related to the operating room in proximity alone was obstetrics and Elizabeth (Sears) Jones has 21 and a half years on the maternity floor of experiences and memories. Actually she came to Reidsville in December of 1939 and nursed as a relief nurse on floor duty and as relief night supervisor until 1950 when she joined the staff full time,

"I have helped deliver and delivered on my own between 2,100 and 2,500 babies. The first year I was on all the floors and then somehow I got stuck on OB," she said. "Prior to the fourth floor, which was built during World War II, the third floor was the surgical and maternity floor. The OBs were put in private rooms as labor rooms."

There were days that the floor would fill up to overflowing. One afternoon Mrs. Jones had six ready to deliver at the same time. The operating room was used and even the nose and throat room.

"I've seen every change there was in that hospital," she continued, "Dr. Klenner put in the first large glass in the nursery. Prior to that we took the baby to the door and the door from delivery swung right into the nursery."

Helping to bring new life into the world has been a tremendous responsibility that she has felt deep within her, although most of the

time she could not show her emotions to the patients themselves,

"The helplessness you feel within yourself that you can't help all these people, You feel it, unless you're an iceberg, You have the family, the woman and the baby, If there are several in labor, six or eight, the mental strain involved is great. Many times I've gone home and cried. You've got to build up a wall so that you can stimulate a patient to do for himself to speed up his recovery. This is why so many nurses are accused of being hardhearted, You can't let your emotions come in, or you can't carry out your orders." She added that she has also gone home and made many an afghan for therapeutic purposes of her own.

Being a nurse for Mrs. Jones, and so many others, was a calling, In the same way the doctors gave of themselves for the healing of their fellow man. Dressing up as a nurse and waving to the troop trains during World War I, Elizabeth Jones knew at 10 years old what she wanted to be.

"There's no amount of money in the world...you get to love these people and it makes you sick when you can't do more for them. We've had some excellent nurses at Annie Penn who were devoted to the cause. They gave of themselves not only in knowledge but in working ability. They would pull double shifts during bad weather and always when it snowed, maternity cases came in."

First floor was where the black patients were housed in wards in addition to the emergency room, X-ray, laboratory and the kitchen and dining facilities. White nurses went down to the first floor to relieve when the black nurses took patients to third floor for surgery,

"We had 12 or 13 beds on the first floor," said Richetta Williamson, black nurse who began working at Annie Penn in 1939, "If there were

extra patients, we would have to put them in the hall. Now patients are put in the hall too, but it is integrated, We had to go upstairs to deliver and had to leave our patients to go to the third floor until delivery, and then come back down. The black doctors could not go to the operating room and help the white doctors. They operated only on standby."

According to her recollections, there were more rooms opened up for the black patients later and the babies stayed with their mothers. As was the nationwide practice until integration, the black nurses and doctors had separate eating quarters and the blacks found simple matters such as hanging up their coats or finding a suitable place to spend the two-hour break a difficult task. Nor were salaries consistent for the same amount of training.

Nevertheless, Richetta Williamson counts some of her best friends as the white nurses she worked with.

"I would dread emergency room duty, We had to take care of the emergency room and some whites resented us working on them. But the doctors were nice about explaining that we were good and had our training just like the others," she added.

"I was crazy about my uniform and kept it all clean, Someone came up to me and said, 'Are you the new cook?' But those things changed soon, It had improved when I left."

Mrs. Gillie Salters, who faced the same conditions a few years earlier expressed her feelings about being a black nurse in the years before integration. "I've always thought of myself as a human being, made in the image of God, It never bothered me, That was a way of life."

Dr. Kenneth Jones didn't come to Reidsville to practice medicine until 1952. However, he found that the situation had changed relatively

little with the exception of the black doctors being admitted to the courtesy staff in 1950.

Thus many years would go by before segregation would come to an end, not only locally but nationally. In the meantime the black patients were gradually outgrowing the first floor, as was happening all over the hospital that was now becoming an establishment to be counted on in the community after a shaky beginning.

"As a whole the patients were great," emphasized Elizabeth Jones, nurse on maternity floor. "We had a lot of laughs and some sad moments. We were happy, though the mental anguish was great with each one (patient). It was the same thing again--that mental anxiety until it was all over (delivery)."

"The thing that impresses me about those days," further stressed Lillian Coleman, "is that they (patients) were individuals and we treated them as individuals. They got well from good care. It was that good personal feeling."

"It's been kind of a homey type hospital where everybody knows everybody," concluded Dr. Forbes.

And so it was that the "homey" hospital, Annie Penn Memorial Hospital, that had opened in the Great Depression and then closed its doors, had not only reopened, but had built already memories to recount 50 years later. The presence of the institution in the community was felt more and more as the years passed by, from the depths of the Depression to the period that was fast approaching World War II.

## VIII

### THE WAR YEARS--FIRST EXPANSION AND BEYOND

In a public service advertisement a photograph of a young boy with braces on his legs can be found in the pages of the January 7, 1941 Reidsville Review. "It Can Happen Here" is the heading and the message reflects a story of sadness and yet, one of hope, for the present day in the Forties and the coming years.

"Infantile paralysis, mysterious disease, strikes where least expected. Every year more children are drafted to serve in the legion of those who wear braces and the polio army which moves on crutches. American doctors, surgeons and scientists will some day conquer this crippling invader if funds are available to keep up the fight against infantile paralysis."

In the same month this appeared an influenza epidemic struck the state, causing schools in some 16 counties to close as of January 17. Rockingham County was hit "not in the same proportions as in some other sections of the state," Nevertheless, by January 24 some schools in Rockingham County were closed due to the epidemic,

And though the United States had not yet entered World War II the front pages of the newspapers were filled with the War, the horrors and the fears of the fast-spreading war. News of local interest took second place to the national news, thus putting all accounts of the growing hospital in the shadows,

Despite the difficulties of the earlier years at Annie Penn, the hospital managed to operate at a profit and by 1939 had put aside a fund which together with a \$10,000 gift from Duke Endowment enabled the board of trustees, under the chairmanship of Royal W. Sands, to make the addition of the fourth floor, which increased the total beds



to 68. Essentially rooms were added around the already existing solarium. Begun in 1941 the fourth floor was completed in May 1942 at a cost of approximately \$31,000 with Charles C. Hartmann of Greensboro as architect and W. B. Hunt of Pleasant Garden as general contractor. Hunt, coincidentally, was the grandfather of Governor Jim Hunt.

On May 10, 1942, Mother's Day and the eleventh anniversary of Annie Penn Memorial Hospital, an open house was held in which hundreds of people visited and were shown the new fourth floor. Visitors were also shown the "newly painted and renovated office and lobby and first floor solarium which is dedicated to S. G. Jett and J. W. McGehee." They were also served "punch and cookies from a beautifully appointed table which was centered with a handsome asparagus fern and white peonies."

It seemed that once Annie Penn had weathered the Great Depression, all would be smooth from that point on. And truly there were great numbers of advancements during the war years, with the staff growing to larger numbers and the programs initiated to provide better health care for the also growing community.

Even so, the advancements in medicine allowed only certain progress and the doctors and nurses found that sheer dedication alone was needed to balance the constant threat of disease to mankind.

In 1941 and 1942 Dr. T. E. Forbes journeyed from Madison to Reidsville to deliver babies at Annie Penn. Then in 1944 he moved to Reidsville to practice. He remembers those years as very difficult because there were not enough doctors.

"During the War Dr. Cozart and Dr. Rudd were away in the army. We had just finished the fourth floor. The emergency room was still under the steps at the front entrance, and the lab and X-ray were down at the end of the hall. We were on call for the emergency room for two weeks and then alternate call for two weeks, With only six or seven of us we were on two months out of the year," he said.

Dr. Hunter Moricle, who came to Reidsville from Eden in 1945, confirmed that the emergency room arrangement during that time was extremely difficult to handle.

"We had as many as seven in a wreck at one time in the emergency room and had to treat some of them in the halls. We were called out of the office, being on call all day and all night the whole trip. When I came here there were three surgeons and then Dr. McAnally died, leaving two surgeons. The family doctors did all the deliveries and we surgeons just helped them when they were out," added Dr. Moricle.

There was a shortage of manpower on the home front. For 10 years between 1930 and 1940 there had not been enough jobs to employ all the skilled mechanics in the country. Now there were 50 jobs for every qualified man in some trades. Manpower could no longer be wasted. Women were much in demand as workers.

"During the Forties," stated W. B. Pipkin, "charges were low, but the income was low too. It seems to me in the early Forties a ward bed was \$2.50 a day. And there was difficulty getting personnel, particularly nurses. All during that period it was difficult to make ends meet."

Elizabeth (Sears) Jones recalled that prior to 1945 some of the four-bed wards were \$1.50 per day, a semi-private room was \$3.50 a day in 1944 and the private rooms were "five dollars a day and up depending on what room." (There are no longer wards at Annie Penn.)

"During World War II Mr. Rascoe was head of the dietary department," continued Mrs. Jones. "It seemed that every meal we had bread pudding. One day we took all the dishes with bread pudding and slid them to the corner in the dining hall. I think he got the message. Most people were hard-working, conscientious and not above being shown. And one time we had a bunch of flu. I worked up there for weeks." Before going to work full time on the maternity floor she had been relief night supervisor.

With the War came rationing and more hard times. Sugar, butter, meat, coffee, tires, gasoline and shoes were among the items rationed. There were also many scarcities because many of the factories ceased production of certain articles in order to manufacture those items needed for the war effort. For example, women's hosiery was used in the manufacture of parachutes so that women often painted their legs. Scarcities included hair curlers, kitchen utensils, paper, lawn mowers, bronze caskets, electric toasters, waffle irons, cameras and diapers.

There were scrap drives for rubber, waste paper, toothpaste tubes and tin cans. Housewives salvaged cooking grease and rolled two and a half billion Red Cross bandages between Pearl Harbor and V-J Day.

By February 1, 1942 all auto assembly lines were converted to war production. The Office of Price Administration (OPA) took the titles to the 500,000 new cars in stock in Detroit and stored them in government warehouses. Only applicants of top priority could obtain an automobile, such as the country physicians. And with the rationing of gasoline, the ordinary citizen without a defense job received a black "A" stamp which allowed only three gallons of gasoline a week.

"Those were the great days," said Pitt Wilkerson, who not only provided funeral service but also the ambulance service, along with the other funeral homes in the county. "During the War you couldn't get equipment, I remember going to Arkansas and taking six tires and using four before I got back. I got a big Firestone tire and thought it was the prettiest thing I ever saw, It had the best tread. But by the time I drove it three times, it blew. Our gas (ambulance) was unlimited but we had trouble with people stealing the gas. We had to check the gas before we went anywhere. One morning we found that someone had knocked a hole in the gas tank with an ice pick."

Most people still did not have hospital insurance and there was no fee charged for emergency room service. Dr. Forbes remembers that deliveries in the Forties had gone up in price, but were only \$35. Office visits cost the patient \$1.50 and home visits were \$3.

"When I started here (Annie Penn) you could get your tonsils out and spend the night for \$35 and that included the room, anesthesia, operating room and the surgery," he continued. "There were times I worked all night in the emergency room and the total collection was \$8.25. Of course, we've gradually progressed so that a third party, insurance, is involved now. But in those days we delivered all babies who came to the emergency room, set all broken arms, sewed people up, did everything. Some we would send to Greensboro. And we've had a very dedicated nursing staff," he said, "especially during times when we had about as many in the halls as in the (regular) hospital in flu epidemics."

Blood count and urinalysis were the primary tests done by the laboratory in that period, according to Forbes. Lab tests were "very simple." The X-ray department also depended on a doctor coming from out of town to read the X-rays three days a week and pathology was

done in Winston-Salem. Fluoroscopes were done in the doctors' offices, he recalled, and "we didn't know about RH positive and negative factors."

By this time penicillin had been refined for use. But obtaining the medicine in the early years was quite difficult. In order to get a dose of penicillin to treat pneumonia, a family had to have special permission and be sent to Winston-Salem to receive 100,000 units for treatment of a bad case of pneumonia or infection. There were still no tranquilizers and no painkillers.

Certain landmarks occurred during the Forties at Annie Penn. In addition to the first expansion that added more rooms with a fourth floor, the Jefferson Penn Foundation was established in 1944 for the purpose of providing extern-intern service for resident physicians and also funds for special staff training.

"We've had a good program under the Jeff Penn Foundation," stated Dr. Hunter Moricle. "I remember Robert Means came as the first intern under the foundation in 1948. He is now a surgeon in Winston-Salem. We've had them from Bowman Gray, Duke and Chapel Hill. And we've also had several doctors here who went through the program, Dr. (Angus) McInnis and Dr. (Dan) King. The hospital has served as a training school and worked with the doctors usually about three months."

In the extern-intern program the studying physician rotates through the various departments of the hospital-surgery, obstetrics, emergency room and all phases of medicine. During the days that the Louise Birmingham Nurses' Home was still in use, some of the students were housed in the upstairs of the home while on their three-month sojourn at Annie Penn.

Another landmark during the Forties was the acquisition of the first full time administrator. From 1945 to May of 1946 T. C. Peele was

administrator, and then in 1947 J. W. Harbison became administrator and served in that capacity until 1968.

"The administrator's position requires an unusual amount of tact and diplomacy," stated W. B. Pipkin, "Mr. Harbison did a tremendous job!" And for 21 years J. W. Harbison carried on the tremendous responsibilities required by the job.

"When I came here Annie Penn was a small hospital with maybe 65 beds. It had come through hard times and the doctor staff was depleted. There were not enough doctors because of sudden death and drop-outs. In the Forties it was touch and go with the doctors being drawn to industry. And the problem we had at that time was getting the hospital accredited," said Harbison.

"Another problem was that only one in four people had any third party pay, the insurance company. It was very rare if they had insurance," he added. "We began trying to sell the tobacco farmers on the idea of getting insurance. We told them the best load of tobacco they could sell would be to invest in Blue Cross insurance. Now it's a rarity if people don't have it."

But the lack of funds by the patient didn't deter the hospital from admitting them and treating them. Harbison recalled that the board of trustees instructed him not to turn anyone away, "even if they don't have a dime. We'll worry about the money later," he was told.

"And that appealed to the Duke Endowment," Harbison stressed. For Duke Endowment followed their initial funding of \$50,000 with financial support all through the years and continues today in 1980 to supply Annie Penn with tremendous financial backing,

"In the Forties it cost three dollars a day in a four-bed ward. Dr. Rankin, head of Duke Endowment at that time," said 'If you would go to all private rooms, you would find that the cost won't be any greater and the service would be better.' It's been 30 or 40 years getting from the four-bed ward to the private rooms today,"

Duke Endowment, Harbison pointed out, is a unique source of funds in that it limits the beneficiaries to only two states, North and South Carolina.

Though the period of the Forties was difficult, 'we did the best we could with what we had.'

After 15 years of operating in warm weather, conditions were made possible for the operating room to be air conditioned for the comfort of the surgeons and nurses.

"I think I was talking to Dr. Hester or Mr. Harbison and I realized that those high-powered lights they have to have created intense heat. In talking both may have mentioned it," said W. B. Pipkin. "I donated some funds to air condition the operating room. Dr. William Hester and Dr. James McAnally also contributed to the cost of the project."

"The story of Annie Penn is typical of many hospitals in North Carolina. This was a critical and trying period in history," summed up J. W. Harbison, "They wanted a good little hospital for this community and it (hospital) is a tribute to all those people who worked back there and slaved and put money in it."

And as the years progressed to the end of the war years and the first expansion was completed, then numbers of caring and giving people were also increasing.

## IX

### FOUR IN THE FORTIES

The peak of the "goodbye babies" had come in the United States in 1943, the year after the men had gone to war. Then from 1944 to 1945 births dropped. A year after the men came home more than half a million more babies were born than the year before and the rise continued.

Reidsville and Annie Penn Memorial Hospital in particular had a claim to fame during this period in the birth of quadruplets on May 23, 1946 to Annie Mae and James Fultz. The Fultz quadruplets were delivered by Dr. Fred R. Klenner and from the moment of their births they were celebrities. Not only were the four baby girls the talk of the town, they were also the talk all around because of the rarity of identical quadruplets.

Richetta Williamson was a nurse at Annie Penn during the time the quads were born and recalls vividly all the bustle around the hospital when the event occurred. And though she had gone off duty during the actual delivery, she spent many hours tending to the quads and even accompanied them on a trip to Washington, D. C. in celebration of their fourth birthdays.

They were seen off by Reidsville Mayor Wesley A. Trotter, Julian C. Fulton of the Chamber of Commerce and the Booker T. Washington High School Band.

"The mother was deaf after having meningitis as a child. She came to the hospital three weeks before time for her to deliver because she lived such a distance from the hospital (Route 2, Madison). They kept her here so they could monitor her. They knew it would be multiple births," said Mrs. Williamson. Of course, many years later



multiple births would not be as uncommon because of the increased use of fertility drugs. But in 1946 the phenomenon was even more cause for excitement.

"I went off duty that night at 11 O'clock and the babies started coming at 1:15. I was there the next day after that and for the next two weeks it was a nightmare. Newsmen from Universal Studios came and took pictures of them," she said.

There were no incubators at Annie Penn in those days and the babies were put on one bed crosswise, wrapped in cotton with hot water bottles between them and fed distilled water with medicine droppers. Also extra heat was put in the room where the babies stayed for four months before going home.

"As far as I know they are the world's only living identical black quadruplets," added Mrs. Williamson, "A pediatrician from Duke came up and gave them a 50-50 chance of surviving. There were also six other sisters and brothers and there was one born after them."

As with the Dionne quintuplets a decade earlier companies bid for the contract on the quadruplets to put them in their advertisements. There were bids from Pet Milk, Carnation and Borden, with Pet Milk winning the contract. For many years they were seen in Pet Milk advertisements and were taken care of quite well by the company. "Every body was excited about a big fat baby then. The more babies you had, the more popular you were," she said.

On the cover of the August, 1950 issue of "Ebony" magazine the quads were pictured in red overalls, white felt berets and striped shirts. They were sitting atop a wood pile. The caption read "Washington Birthday Party For The Quads." On the inside it was

noted that the 'Fultz girls leave Carolina farm for first time to enjoy look at outside world and meet Truman."

Mary Ann, Mary Louise, Mary Alice and Mary Katherine were given a sightseeing tour of Washington and got their "first train ride, first bus ride, first stay in a hotel, first meal away from home, first look at airplanes on the ground, first visit to the zoo and first meeting with a President of the United States, Harry S. Truman," The President, upon meeting the quads, replied, 'My, but aren't they pretty!'"

Mrs. Williamson hasn't seen the quads for several years now. She does remember that they went to modeling school after they were older, but that they then scattered to different directions. Today two are living in New York, one in Texas and one in Greensboro, North Carolina.

## MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY AT ANNIE PENN

...and knowledge shall be increased."

-Daniel 12:4

For the two decades encompassing the Fifties and the Sixties, the country entered into an era in which dramatic change in the fields of science and technology were compressed into a brief span of time. This was also a period of turbulent social change. The nation was plunged, within five years of V-J Day in 1945, into another war, the Korean War. And from that point on, there would be provocative historical events spanning the next 20 years.

The increase in the birth rate in the late Forties resulted in the overcrowding of elementary schools in the Fifties and Sixties and also in a serious shortage of physicians to keep up with the population explosion. Although the number of hospitals had increased from 4,000 in 1909 to 6,000 in 1950, the hospitals in general had more patients than they could care for well. Increased costs produced budget problems for the nation's hospitals. The general practitioner was not as available in the rural areas as was needed, with a trend toward more specialization.

With the tremendous growth in population the demand for more community health centers was also growing. In addition to the many general hospitals, there were hundreds of special hospitals going up in the Fifties for tuberculosis, mental illness and polio. There was a polio hospital in Greensboro in the mid-Fifties. (On September 2, 1954 it was reported that there had been 403 cases of polio in North Carolina to date.) This particular hospital served surrounding counties including Rockingham, whose citizens campaigned to raise funds for

its construction. April 12, 1955 the polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk was declared a safe and effective means in preventing the disease. A nationwide plan was adopted to inoculate first and second graders.

In the ensuing years after 1950, nationally, the country was plunged into one dramatic historic event after another, beginning with the Space Age and continuing with the Cold War, the assassination of President John Kennedy, the Civil Rights Act and the Vietnam War.

The Space Age achievements drew attention to the need for stronger preparation of American youth in mathematics, science and languages. The age had been launched quite dynamically on October 4, 1957 when the Soviet Union sent Sputnik I satellite into orbit around the earth. This development of man-made satellites was considered one of the greatest scientific achievements during the Fifties and Sixties. The space efforts led to increased knowledge of the human body and the development of new therapies in combatting disease.

Annie Penn was also in the midst of change and growth that were related to the changes found in science, in the nation and in the world.

In 1950 the black doctors of the community were admitted to courtesy staff and with that action Administrator J. W. Harbison felt that major improvements were occurring in the scope of health care for the community. Total integration of the medical staff and the patient facilities took place in the early Sixties.

"When they did that, they improved medical care for the entire community," he said.

Also in 1950 the Ashby Penn Foundation was established by Mrs. C. A. Penn in memory of her son for the treatment of cancer.

Monumental in 1950 was the inspection of Annie Penn by the American College of Surgeons (now known as the Joint Commission on Accreditation) and the dream of the entire medical community, trustees and administrator was realized when the accreditation was finalized.

After the initial accreditation in 1950, Annie Penn passed additional inspections at regular intervals in the following years.

"It was a period of fantastic growth all the way through," stated Harbison. "We had here a rather devoted community for better care, for better and more doctors and for better facilities. We had people who were interested in improving our laboratory especially. Our lab was wholly inadequate to do what we wanted to do. Everything was going to Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem for a while. We couldn't hardly get an autopsy at all, it was so expensive.

"We also had a visiting radiologist who came from Winston-Salem two days a week to read X-rays for several years," he continued,

However, improvements were already on the way when in July of 1952 a full time radiologist, Dr. Roy Truslow, came to Reidsville. To alleviate the problem of the laboratory inadequacies a full time pathologist was needed. Nevertheless, it was not until 1967 that this position was filled by Dr. Cecil Burkhardt.

During the years preceding the Fifties the hospital was terribly crowded with the corridors being filled with beds at times to care for the surplus patients. With this stepped-up patient activity it became apparent that the hospital would need to expand its patient capacity to meet the demand. Thus followed a period of several expansions which were funded by Duke Endowment, American Tobacco Company, the Ford

Foundation, state and federal grants and contributions from local citizens who expressed their interest in Annie Penn in both monetary and service gifts.

Begun in 1951 and completed in 1952 was the west wing, which included an emergency room, a maternity suite, nursery, high pressure steam, renovations and alteration to the kitchen, staff dining room, medical records department and an addition of 20 beds. The cost of the two-story structure was approximately \$350,000 with Charles C. Hartmann the architect and King-Hunter Inc. of Greensboro the general contractor.

Following the addition of the west wing the Betsy Penn Hospital Aid Foundation was established by Mrs. (Jefferson) Penn for the benefit of services, equipment and supplies.

The next addition in the Fifties was the construction of a new nurses' home. It was thought to be vital that nursing staff housing provisions be made by the hospital. This, in turn, would be a drawing factor for nurses, of whom there was a definite shortage.

"There was definitely a shortage of nurses during that time," said Harbison.

"I suppose I'm the guilty one," added William C. Stokes, trustee at the time, who corroborated the fact that nurses were needed. "We conceived the idea of building a nurses' home. We felt that we had to provide housing to keep the nurses. About the time we built the new nurses' home (facing Maple Avenue), the nurses decided to live elsewhere."

At any rate the decision was made to construct a new nurses' home at a cost of \$115,000 for 14 bedrooms, three baths, a suite for the superintendent of nurses, a screened-in porch adjoining a recreation

room and a large date room, The home was connected to the hospital by a lighted alleyway and there was a direct communications system with the hospital. George Watt Carr of Durham was architect and King-Hunter, Inc. was general contractor. The home was open for residence by August of 1954. Nevertheless, the structure was not used as extensively as had been hoped when the plans were being drawn up. In more recent years the structure has been used for office space.

In the same month and year that the new nurses' home opened, an informative article appeared in the newspaper citing that "Annie Penn has more than the average number of hospital beds." The annual American Medical Association survey on hospitals stated that there were 82 beds at Annie Penn, one bed for every 143 residents. The national average was one bed for every 284 residents.

Other figures of interest during that period listed Annie Penn as having taken care of 4,926 patients in 1953 and 5,226 outpatients. The change of hospital care being more accessible in the mid-Fifties as opposed to 1933 showed that nine out of ten babies were born in the hospital in 1954. Only four out of ten were born in the hospital in 1933. Favorable economic conditions made it possible for the patients to utilize hospital facilities increasingly.

And though Annie Penn fared well in the statistics, the need for expansion was ever-present. The expansion project begun in 1956 not only increased the number of beds to 108, but also gave the original front entrance a facelift in the form of a one-story structure that housed the lobby, business offices, medical records room, doctors' lounge, staff dining room and snack bar. Also there was a relocation of the laboratory and X-ray facilities, and a pediatrics area was sponsored by the Junior Service League. The parking area was graded

and paved as a finishing touch to this next addition completed in 1958 at a cost of \$332,600. Charles Hartmann, who had been the architect for the west wing addition, served in that capacity for the first-floor addition with George W. Kane of Greensboro the general contractor.

Further improvement projects followed in the Sixties with a new operating suite in 1961 of four operating rooms, an eight-bed recovery room, cast room supply storage and lockers for doctors and staff sponsored by the Hospital Auxiliary. In 1961 the old operating room was renovated, adding six beds and increasing the total to 114. A chapel was opened by the Junior Service League and at that time the hospital structure would remain intact until 1967. The building in 1967 encompassed a two-story south structure which housed clinical services area including lab, X-ray, pharmacy and treatment areas at a cost of \$1,320,000 and increased the number of beds to 152.

The "fantastic growth", as voiced by J. W. Harbison, was very apparent in the expansion record.

Harbison had played an important role in that growth and he looks back on his 21-year tenure as a rewarding one.

"It was a rewarding experience. We had a dedicated staff and a wonderful board of trustees. Those two groups working together helped us get accreditation. I came here without professional training. If they hadn't helped me I wouldn't have been there 21 years. Most administrators in North Carolina didn't have training except in other fields, I'd go to the board or the doctors and say 'I've got a problem. Can you help me?'" he said.

A Duke University graduate, Harbison had taught school for 20 years in North Carolina before coming to Reidsville to serve as the hospital's administrator.



"I'd taught school before I came here, We could lock up the school on Friday afternoon. Down here you didn't lock up, All the time the hospital is going. We sometimes would have problems at midnight or two o'clock in the morning. The hospital is there and has to go on."

"But you can get places with good doctors, a board of trustees backing us up in helping with the budget and a town that was good to us. It was a favorable situation all the way through. I was just part of it. You can move mountains when everyone works together, We had some crises, but among all we came through them," Harbison concluded.

THE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY AND OTHER HELPING HANDS

"Behind every great man,..."

They needed little things--the hospital, that is. Back when Annie Penn opened in the Thirties the doctors and the trustees would go home after busy days at the office, in their various positions, and they would drop little hints about the things that were needed at the hospital. Miss Forkner, superintendent of nurses, was having to run all over the place taking care of her nursing duties, while at the same time stopping to mend the linen. And the rooms were sometimes rather drab and in need of flowers.

Needless to say, the wives picked up on these little bits of information and on their own began to go down to the hospital to see what they could do to help out. Some of the wives were very good seamstresses and they would frequent a "sewing room" at the Birmingham Nurses' Home to mend the linens, make baby sacks, receiving blankets, aprons for the cooks, bed pan covers, dresser scarves and operating room boots. Other wives had "green thumbs" and they would carry flowers to the hospital to brighten up the drab atmosphere. Any spare time was used to perform some of the "extras" for the hospital,

The Christmas season was especially challenging. The women made big red stockings and bundled the newborn Christmas babies in them. They also made Christmas nightcaps for the babies one year.

And for many years, until 1955, all the little extras around Annie Penn were taken care of by these thoughtful women. The year 1955 is significant in this story, for it is the year that the trustees requested that a steering committee be appointed to form an official

auxiliary, to "come up with an organization which would assist the hospital and staff in any way approved by the board of trustees. Duties were to relieve the professional help in their work and to provide aid and comfort to patients and visitors on a volunteer basis." Thus the first official action was taken to organize the workers who were already volunteering of their time.

The first organizational meeting was held on May 3, 1955 at the Municipal Building downtown in Reidsville. From that first meeting Mrs. R. H. Wray was elected the first president of the Woman's Auxiliary (now the Annie Penn Memorial Hospital Auxiliary) and there was a membership of 220 women. During the first year the Auxiliary functioned as an organized body, there were 125 active members who did the major leg work with a total of 4,575 hours of service rendered.

Timed with the hospital's 25 anniversary, the founding of the Auxiliary was celebrated with a silver tea at the nurses' home in honor of the 25 years of service the hospital had given to the community and also the establishment of the Auxiliary.

Through the years the Hospital Auxiliary has provided service to the hospital in volunteer work and also in funds.

A major project of opening a snack bar was begun in 1958 and the project was successful after raising funds by selling first aid kits. And from 1958 until 1979, at which time the snack bar was replaced by vending machines, it was a source of income for the Auxiliary. These funds in turn were used to purchase equipment to donate to the hospital. For many years the snack bar was manned by volunteer workers, with paid employees hired by the hospital in recent years. Another source which has helped to provide funds for equipment is the baby photo service.

Gifts to the hospital in the form of equipment has focused in the coronary care field with virtually all the equipment in the Intensive Coronary Care Unit (ICCU) donated by the Auxiliary. Major equipment donated has included aspirators, oxygen gauges, cardiac monitoring units, electronic memory loops, bedside monitors and telemetry units, as well as bassinet resucitators for newborns and blenders for special diets. Also all coronary care equipment in the operating room has been donated by the Auxiliary.

The ICCU was opened in 1968 with four monitored beds and there was one portable monitor in the emergency room. Now the unit has been increased to eight beds, through funds from the Auxiliary,

The projects go on and the list is long of the various contributions made by the Auxiliary--both in man power and in funding.

Other services provided are the Flower Box, which offers flowers for sale to visitors; a scholarship awarded to a nursing student; and the Junior Volunteers, at one time called "Candy Strippers", who work year round--during the summer and on weekends. Volunteers spend many hours each day delivering mail; giving out information at the information desk; serving surgical patients' families coffee in the surgical waiting room; transporting patients to physical therapy and providing escort service to lab and X-ray during admission.

With the most recent purchase being the Resusi-Ann, the Hospital Auxiliary has upped its contribution to the hospital to approximately \$70,000 worth of equipment since its inception in 1955,

The Auxiliary has not been without help of its own either.

The Reidsville Pilot Club has maintained a "Pajama and Toiletry Closet" for the patients and for the purchase of slippers for the patients for many years. The Youth Group of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women has been responsible for delivering mail on Saturdays. Also the Girlfriends Club operates the Shop Cart and The Reidsville Woman's Club maintains a rotating art exhibit in the hospital. The Junior Service League works escort service on Sundays and participates in pediatric visiting.

Working hand in hand with the Hospital Auxiliary has been the Reidsville Junior Service League, which was organized in 1935 and began its civic improvement activities with the health and welfare of children in mind.

The initial action of the Junior Service League was a tonsil clinic for underprivileged children in May of 1936 begun with a donation of \$1,000. Over a period of 22 years, from 1935 to 1957 a total of over \$11,000 in facilities and services was contributed by the Junior Service League.

In 1957 W. B. Pipkin said at the formal dedication of the new wing that "the League has been a hospital friend for 17 years." Today in 1980 that period spans 45 years and the contribution figure continues to grow with the most recent contribution being to the new hospital building fund in the amount of \$10,000.

"Throughout the years we fell back on the Woman's Auxiliary and the Junior Service League," stated J. W. Harbison, administrator of the hospital from 1947 to 1968, "Whenever we needed something we turned to them."

The caring runs deep in Reidsville for the community hospital that began with much struggle. The civic organizations in the town have shown through the entire 50 year period that they supported the hospital by supplying financial aid and man hours in service. The list of organizations would be quite lengthy if named one by one. Nevertheless, the gifts of love and service live on in the hearts and minds of the men and women who serve and are served by Annie Penn Memorial Hospital.

## XII

### TRUSTEES THROUGH THE YEARS

"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."

In 1973 the past chairmen of the board of trustees at Annie Penn were honored for what they gave, and were recognized for what they would continue to give. For it would be the unselfish dedication to a most worthy cause that would lead trustees through the 50 years at Annie Penn to contribute of their time and their expertise to a growing institution in a growing community full of needs and complex daily demands.

When Annie Penn reopened in March of 1933 it was "under the guidance of (the) trustees" that it "prospered, grew and kept pace with the changing times," remarked Paul Schoellkopf, grandson of Annie Spencer Penn, at the appreciation dinner in 1973,

Originally there were nine members of the board of trustees. Then in March of 1947 the number was enlarged to 15. It was felt that more citizens should be familiar with the operation of the hospital and that the trustees should rotate membership through the election of members for a term of three years. With the growth of the hospital the board would also be expanded two more times from 15 to 16 members in September of 1973, and from 16 to 20 members in August of 1977. Currently board members serve five-year terms,

W. B. (Dud) Apple Jr., current chairman of the board of trustees, commented that the hospital board is "a working board, as opposed to an honorary board," With the concept of "work" kept in focus throughout the years, both current and past board members have expressed their concern for the hospital and the community in the sincere manner in which they have served.

"The reports I get and my own personal experience is that the quality of service here (at Annie Penn) has a personal touch. The staff is interested and considerate of the people under their care, more so than at some other places," expressed W. B. Pipkin, board member for 31 years and now honorary board member. "With the advent of Medicare in 1965 or 1966 the volume of business and the quality of patient care has expanded tremendously. I'm speaking of physical activity, not dollars, but in the number of patient days. And the facilities have improved tremendously also with the addition of X-ray from the outset, physical therapy and more specializations through the various fields of medical care. The equipment is so much better than was available anywhere 50 years ago. The tools that are at the disposal or use of the physician now simply hadn't been invented.

"But the innate art of diagnosis has not been tremendously improved," he continued. "That's in the man, that's not in the equipment. They (the men) have the art of practicing medicine and they're born with it."

William C. Stokes, a former chairman of the board of trustees, also commented on the many benefits that the hospital has afforded the community through the last 50 years.

"Everybody is conscious of the tremendous amount of good done everyday (by the hospital). It's had the top flight management of a lot of people. A lot of people have served on the board of trustees and have given a lot of time. The members of the Penn family continued to contribute all through the Depression and all through their lifetime as well as Duke Endowment," stressed Stokes. "But few people realize what the hospital contribution is in a monetary way to the town's well-being in the payroll of employees."



On the occasion of the expansion which was completed in 1958, J. W. Harbison, the administrator at that time, gave an impressive tribute to the trustees.

"The board of trustees is responsible for the renovation," he said. "They are the guiding star for the long range project. These people have given freely of their time and resources with no thought of profit. They are the motivating force that keeps the hospital in operation."

Board Chairman Dud Apple has served as a trustee of the hospital since 1969 and is finishing up a two-year term as chairman in September 1980.

From an overall view, Apple sees the board of trustees as having multiple purposes. "We do act as a liaison between the community and the 'official hospital'. We're a sounding board. In the trustee capacity we act as the official sounding board for the community and relate to the administration what the concerns of the community are. The board's primary responsibility is to formulate policy under which the administration can work. And then the board of trustees are ultimately legally responsible for the results (of the hospital). It makes you stop and think seriously," he said.

The "working" board of trustees at Annie Penn combines much experience in diverse fields, which is used in facilitating and planning the future of the hospital. Nor do board members receive monetary compensation. The compensation comes from the personal satisfaction found in witnessing the culmination of many hours of planning and laboring for better health care for the community,

In 1980 there are several concepts that have arisen from a half century's experience. The tradition behind the current progress has brought into focus that there have been themes in the thinking of the board of trustees from the very conception of the non profit hospital.

"We have attempted and have been successful, while remaining a community hospital, to become more professional in our approach to providing health care," continued Apple. "We have also attempted to hold services at Annie Penn well below the average cost of a hospital our own size in the state. And we don't do everything right. I wouldn't want to leave that impression. We are very concerned about patient care. We do on-going patient surveys. Ninety-seven or ninety-eight percent of all those responses are very positive. But we do get some complaints. We don't just receive the negative responses without following up on them,

"We have also had motivational programs presented within the hospital staff. People are in the hospital at a vulnerable point. It is important to take time with the patient and the family. The staff can make the patient respond through attention and sincere feeling. A lot of hospital care is one-on-one sharing. This attention actually promotes healing," he emphasized,

Of chief concern today is the \$8.9 million expansion project that will actually add 100,000 square feet on the present site. The new addition represents "probably seven or eight years of planning" on the part of the board of trustees.

"The whole purpose of the expansion is to make for better facilities than the original 1930 building with its crowded conditions. We don't take the patients for granted," added Apple. "We are conscious of

the fact that other good hospitals are nearby with good service. But the one-on-one way you relate to people can make them feel comfortable."

"In health care you need to be concerned about equipment that is available. The patient naturally assumes you'll provide the necessary equipment. With the addition of our expansion program we will retain a position of dominance in the county. I have a great deal of pride in our community and the hospital. The board is resolved to do whatever is necessary to retain that position along the lines of a community hospital," he concluded.

Seven years ago Paul Schoellkopf summed up the essence of the importance of the board of trustees to Annie Penn Memorial Hospital: "You in Reidsville have been fortunate in attracting leading citizens to serve on your board and to give of their time. The trustee of tomorrow will have to be even more devoted than in the past. He or she will have to be able to contribute certain expertise to the position. I am confident that the Annie Penn Memorial Hospital will continue to have outstanding leadership during the last quarter of this century."

### XIII

#### GREAT STRIDES AND GIANT STEPS

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

The direction in which Annie Penn as a community hospital has moved in the last decade is indicative of the devotion of the earlier men--doctors and trustees who were determined to have good health care for the community of people who were family and friends. With that same intensity of dedication, the people who uplift Annie Penn today have taken up the cause and are in constant search for new and effective means of reaching the community's health care needs.

Certain hallmarks stand out in the decade surrounding the Seventies and leading into the promising future of the Eighties. As great strides and giant steps were being made in medicine and health care worldwide, so it was at Annie Penn that the atmosphere was quickly transforming from one of the barest essentials to one of sophisticated health care.

The hallmarks are numerous and span broad topics in the areas of equipment, personnel and approaches. Coordination of these areas has contributed toward the success of the various programs.

Today at Annie Penn the laboratory facilities are greatly improved with an in-residence pathologist to oversee the area, which also includes automated and updated equipment. There is more focus on clinical medicine today in the laboratory and the diagnostic approach and procedures are aided by this interest. More sophisticated studies are available at Annie Penn, with very few studies requiring outside facilities.

The emergency room area is another focal point of great improvement and will be even further improved with the current expansion project. Probably one of the most noticeable improvements in the emergency room is in coverage by the staff. There is now a full time director of emergency room service, which provides coverage during the night and on weekends. The hospital was the recipient of a grant that allowed this system to be set up, thereby broadening the scope of coverage when the doctors are not in their offices.

The coronary care unit (ICCU) is a standout in the progress of Annie Penn. Annie Penn Hospital was one among the first groups in the country to set up such a unit. The hospital inaugurated the unit when the concept of coronary units first came into being and it has made a substantial difference in patient care.

A full time physical therapist also contributes to the overall health care of a community hospital. The quarters have been rather cramped but will be increased with the current expansion. Also added to Annie Penn's coverage is pulmonary therapy with an active inhalation department. The first full time anesthesiologist addition has improved the functions the hospital renders. In the past there were anesthetists. Now there is a director of anesthesiology, who supervises the nurse anesthetists,

In 1933 Mrs. Gillie Salters remembers sending out to the local drug store for medicine for the patients. There was no hospital pharmacy. In 1980, 50 years later, there is a full time pharmacist and a full time pharmacy department. The resident pharmacist compiles the hospital formulary, which lists the stock of drugs for use and treatment. The formulary is approved by the doctors and can be revised when doctors apply and request that any new drug be stocked.

Morrison's Cafeteria Service has updated the food service at the hospital. There are a full time director and nutritionist who are helpful in carrying out menus for special diets--a heart patient would be on a salt-restricted diet, for example, or diabetic diets. There will be a new kitchen in the new facilities. This is another feature in the development of services of the hospital.

On staff is an epidemiologist, a nurse whose job it is to control and look for hospital infections which might contribute to the health of the patient. This service includes certain isolation techniques for infectious control and is also very innovative as far as nursing is concerned, challenging the nurse to make use of specialized skills. While paperwork is indispensable, often nurses must "treat" charts and "treat" papers, rather than people.

The team concepts approach is an additional innovative direction that is being taken at Annie Penn. With the team approach a group works as a unit with delegated duties. There is an ongoing team unit in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), with aides and the registered nurses. The team approach takes an even further step in the patient care conference, which involves services within the hospital and services outside of the hospital. Within the hospital services related to patient care can often include the medical and nursing staff, the respiratory team, the physical therapy team, the pharmacy, emergency room, human services, community relations and any other department that may have contact with the patient. Beyond the boundaries of the hospital certain service agencies may be required for the patient care conference. These may involve public health, mental health, vocational rehabilitation and the ministerial fellowship.

Closely related to the team approach of medicine is a wholistic approach of considering a patient's needs at Annie Penn from every socio-economic standpoint, the emotional, physical and spiritual.. When a patient is admitted to the hospital, the first recognizable concern is the physical illness. However, in caring for the patient under the wholistic approach, it may be discovered that the physical illness may not be the chief concern. There may be other problems which are related to the illness of the person. At this point preventive medicine can be practiced,

In-residence social service workers are now placed in the hospital by the Department of Social Services. These workers deal primarily in the realm of placing people in extended care facilities, helping to coordinate problems when the patients go home and caring for Medicaid patients, Medicaid is financial aid funded by the state government and includes aid to families with dependent children, aid to the aged and aid to the disabled and blind, The social service worker will also contact the Public Health Department to arrange for home nursing that may be needed,

For many years Annie Penn has had preceptorship programs, which involve study by students in the medical field under the supervision of the hospital staff and medical staff. Students in physician's assistants program, laboratory, pharmacy, business office and administration utilize the hospital as a learning center. In addition the hospital also serves interns and externs as a learning center.

Annie Penn is associated with the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) regional program. The program offers many opportunities in continuing education for all levels of the medical community by staging workshops, seminars and educational meetings. This is an

active educational program which provides the physician with up-to-date information on various topics. Annie Penn Hospital was one of the first to become involved and make use of the materials offered by the program.

Once the first accreditation was approved in 1950, the Joint Commission on Accreditation has continued to make routine inspection, thus affording the hospital a measure of checks for sound practices. The importance of accreditation is even further validated by the fact that inspection is done by persons in the medical profession. The most recent accreditation was approved for two years, the maximum a hospital can receive. Preparations are already underway for the next inspection in 1981.

The doors of the hospital were closed before the first class of student nurses could complete their training. In 1932 they were forced to go elsewhere. Nevertheless, the hospital would once again become a training school for student nurses when Rockingham Community College opened its doors at Wentworth, in the center of the county. In 1964 the board of trustees endorsed the nursing program at the college and since that time the departments of nursing at the two institutions have worked together to coordinate the program in which the students receive their clinical experience at Annie Penn.

The largest hospital department, the nursing department, has the most formally organized in-service classes which are coordinated through the nursing education department and a director. Two employees in nursing plan and conduct programs for nursing personnel both day and night to involve all shifts. These programs teach new procedures and review methods,



Annie Penn is most likely the smallest hospital in the country to offer a human services area. In human services a nurse works with patients who are undergoing particular emotional trauma as a result of irreversible change in their lives, perhaps heart attack, loss of limb, mastectomy or approaching death. This service strives to enable the patients to improve the quality of their lives.

From the small corps of nurses, doctors and hospital workers who joined together in 1930, the numbers of those who toil to give the community adequate health care have increased. Now there are 30 on the active medical staff, 380 on the hospital staff and 31 doctors and dentists on the courtesy staff.

The last decade has produced advancements that have revolutionized the health care system. Annie Penn Memorial Hospital has been an active participant in this forward movement and in lending itself to the available advancements in medical science, it offers even greater hope for the future.

The story has not reached a conclusion, although great strides and giant steps have been made in the last 50 years. The climb is steep and promises to stimulate and challenge the imagination in the years to come,

#### XIV

##### JOINING THE OLD AND THE NEW...WORDS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

When Dana F. Bamford came to Annie Penn Memorial Hospital as administrator in 1969, there was much excitement and enthusiasm among the community, the medical staff and the trustees. For the 1967 wing was being completed and the thrust of the hospital was on a progressive note.

"Like any move, people were overcome by how pretty and big the new structure was. Fourteen years later we're saying the same thing again. We're seeing another cycling again. It is important that we have these benchmarks to shoot for in our lives as well as in our communities," stressed Dana Bamford, administrator for 11 years now.

In the years of growth, both physically and technologically, Annie Penn as well as all health care facilities in the United States, has been involved in major change in the trends that have evolved pertaining to diagnosing and treating patients.

"Just a few years ago if the board of trustees and the medical staff just opened their ears and listened to the family and patient, that was the only audience. Today they should be the only audience. But this is not true," stated Bamford. "Today there is over-regulation, reimbursement and the cost of health care to be considered. To diagnose, tools are needed. Then tools are needed to get well if the patient is very sick. The patient may need the services of a medical center. The way it used to be was the doctor and the trustee would sit in and say what is needed."

Other change in comparing yesterday and today is found in the many regulatory measures that must be met with in a strictly physical sense. In the present \$8.9 million expansion project there are fire regulations--

smoke detectors, dampers--and protected stairwells required, "item after item to satisfy the safety regulations for the employees and the patients." Other facets to consider in the expansion of the hospital include the high cost of a health care facility in comparison to a non-health related industry.

"The public is concerned with how much it costs for health today," said Bamford, "We have approximately 60 percent of our cost for payroll of employees. The typical industry would have a 30 percent cost for payroll. We've got twice as many people involved in hands-on treatment."

Another question posed concerning health care in the Eighties is whether the care is still as individualized as it was in the past, perhaps in 1930 when Annie Penn first opened. It does appear as if health care is moving more and more in the direction of being computerized. In addition, there are disadvantages as well as advantages to third party involvement.

"We've got a problem in health care because the customer is not paying out of the pocket. There is a third party, principally the government. That's okay, but it's costing too much. I like the hands-on care and this situation puts the community hospital, the doctor and the employees in a very difficult position," he stressed.

Bamford also expressed an awareness of the revitalization of the community beyond the walls of the hospital building. The community has always had the in-put of the high school graduates who stay at home and contribute to the job force after graduation. Today, in the beginning of a new decade of the Eighties, there is a new "commitment in our community" with younger people coming into the area for new industry, new schools and new job stimuli.

"The hospital building is a reflection of that revitalization," he said. "It is a new hospital to me, not just an addition and it is an upswing for the community rather than just a health facility. It takes bricks and mortar to have a health care facility or a doctor's office, but it is the people in it who count. We like to think and know that Rockingham County has a good reputation in the state for honest, hard workers who do a hard day's work. We try to match that relationship here and be mindful of the needs of the citizens, the un-met needs as well."

Caring for the human being as an individual today can often be a struggle in the midst of a cynical world. With the fast pace of life in the Eighties the moments for walking slowly with a patient down the corridor may be met with demands that pull a little more powerfully than the heart-felt tug of the sick person pleading for a word of encouragement or a sign or recognition. Annie Penn has managed to maintain this unique quality as a community hospital through the insight of the many workers, both in administration and board of trustees emphasis, and in the attitudes of the medical staff and various hospital personnel,

A man entered the hospital after suffering a slight stroke leaving him with limited paralysis on one side. During his recovery period he was taken to physical therapy to help him regain use of the paralyzed side. On one particular day after going to therapy, he hesitated at the elevator door after arriving back on his floor. He had been transported in a wheel chair and now he stood from the chair and slowly, very slowly, began the arduous journey from the elevator to his room.

Expressing a desire to walk to his room alone, he shuffled only a step at a time. On his long walk he passed by the nurses' station where a group of nurses were observing this brave man. They called out to him--words of cheer, words of encouragement. "It's so good to see you walking!" The words moved him along, lifting him and making his trip a little easier. He reached the door to his room.

Once in his room the gentleman was determined to continue his great strides. He began to drink a cup of coffee without any assistance. The coffee spilled all over the bed which had just been changed. He called for help. An aide came in to see the coffee-stained sheets and a look of dismay on the face of the courageous man.

"That's okay," she said, "We've got plenty of sheets."

The patient continued on his journey toward recuperation, knowing there were people backing him and pulling for him,

This is a positive story. Some of the endings are not quite so easy to tell. "There are a lot of whys in the hospital," added Bamford. "It's not always easy to carry the burden. You can't wear it on your sleeve and sometimes the person doesn't see that. People aren't the same when they're in the hospital. Different people act differently to different things."

The individual patient is the focal point in the current expansion. As the hospital has become crowded over the last several years there have been lessons to be learned. Having to place patients in the halls has led to an awareness of the need of patient privacy.

"The new building respects the privacy and dignity of the patient. There will be all private rooms. This is very important," emphasized Bamford. "Most people want to be private. In the emergency room now

there is just a thin curtain between one stretcher and another.

Words and sounds can be heard. In the new building a wall will be between the stretchers,"

The X-ray department in the new building will contain two corridors, one for patients and dressing rooms and the other for the equipment. This will again focus on patient privacy.

An area involving the entire family is the chapel. The present chapel situation will be changed in the new building, where there will be three partitions—one with a more formal desk, one with an altar and pew "to offer a minute's prayer" and a meditation area.

"We think there's a spiritual part of the healing as well as the medical," he stated.

"We've moved from a position in our community where it was the local patient, the local doctor, the local trustee and the local employee that was the hospital. Gradually we've gone into an area of specialization on the part of the doctors, the equipment and the highly trained employee staff. Now we have entered the very sophisticated stage of great strides in health cure and health care."

The local community hospital has grown to a level of involving more and more employees and patients. The growth has been in stages which have built upon the early tradition at Annie Penn.

The work week at one time was 48 hours, then cut to 44 hours, then to 40. In the Fifties and Sixties a lot of people were giving a lot of free care to patients. With the decrease in the work week hours, there has been an increase in the minimum wage. Sad to say, what was once a calling in the medical field, can sometimes appear as merely a job today, which does not always involve dedication, a trend often reflected in modern society.

Nevertheless, the word of cheer and the word of understanding continue to be the norm rather than indifference or curtness.

Annie Penn holds to the tradition which led her through the Great Depression and World War II, during days when there was no cure, no matter how dedicated the doctor and the nurse might be. As she enters a new decade and a new building program, the respect and the reverence for human life has not been forgotten,

## THE UNFINISHED CHAPTER

"We are always looking to the future; the present does not satisfy us. Our ideal, whatever it may be, lies further on."

E. H. Gillett

This chapter is unfinished, by its mere nature alone. For it speaks of the future and dreams and hopes. It lures us by its promise and transforms us into beings of anticipation by its concrete beginnings.

The silhouette of a crane is painted against the evening sky. Mountains of dirt create a clay horizon beyond a massive steel skeleton. Silent now are the din and noise of construction, only to begin again at dawn.

Ideas began to surface several years ago to build again at Annie Penn. This new conception would surpass all the dreams of the early planners of the hospital and would reach into the future in hospital trends. The community would progress even further in health care than had ever been imagined a half century earlier.

The announcement was made at a press conference in early 1979 by Board of Trustees Chairman Dud Apple that a capital funds campaign was being launched to raise funds for an \$8.5 million expansion project at the hospital. Reidsville citizens were called upon to respond to the project by actively campaigning for a goal of \$850,000 or 10 percent of the construction cost of a new 110,000 square foot facility. This figure was the proposed cost at the time of the decision to expand. Inflation later caused the figure to rise to \$8.9 million, of which more than \$1 million



were raised locally in donations and pledges. The remaining construction costs were to be raised through the sale of tax free revenue bonds,

The physical plans for the new facility will change the entrance of the hospital facing Main Street to facing Maple Avenue. This new entrance will help to alleviate traffic problems by providing a main entrance with a covered driveway, emergency and outpatient entrances and physician and service entrances. The 1967 building on the first floor will house a laboratory, physical therapy and respiratory room and medical records. On this same level in the new wing will be trauma rooms, coronary rooms, a 12-patient facility for outpatients, normal treatment area, four doctor's examination rooms and a pediatric room. Also included will be radiology and surgery. The front of this floor will house administrative offices, admitting office and the lobby.

Patient towers will focus on the privacy of the patient. Two floors will contain 40 beds each with one floor for intensive care, general care and concentrated care and the other floor for patient rooms. All the rooms in the hospital will have single beds angled for more patient privacy and private baths.

Classrooms and offices for health-related functions will be housed in several of the older existing buildings. Parking spaces will also be increased by one-third.

The groundbreaking occurred in May of 1979 with expectations of completion in late 1981. The groundbreaking was made possible by the outstanding support of the community and its leaders throughout the fund raising campaign.

Exemplifying the qualities of the founders of Annie Penn, the townspeople--both leaders and citizens alike--rallied to the cause, collectively involving their neighbors and friends in contributing both time and money for the expansion project. Local industry participated as well with American Tobacco Company donating \$250,000, the largest single donation received for the building fund. A concert benefit was staged with popular Danny Davis and The Nashville Brass performing at the local high school. The efforts of all were united under the single goal of building a new structure for Annie Penn.

Once again Duke Endowment supported Annie Penn and made a gift to the hospital in the sum of \$250,000 with a commitment of additional grants in future years to support the building program up to \$900,000--reminders again that those who have invested of time, money and concern in Annie Penn continue to contribute now and will do so in the future.

Life in the Eighties has changed drastically from the years of the opening of the hospital. In every facet of the hospital's life there have been changes, both technologically and structurally. Yet the one area that must be held sacred is the care of the community watching over the welfare and the needs, regardless of the changing times. Annie Penn will continue to update the quality of medical care, though the medical Meccas will be always a step ahead. But the area in which Annie Penn can compete and will always be first is in the personal caring for the patients, their families and the life of the community. Caring is a constant in the services of the hospital.

And so the end of the story has come, but without really ending. For a new era in the life of Annie Penn Memorial Hospital is on the horizon, unfolding day by day and bringing rejuvenation and reawakening in the spirit of the community. The challenges are great, the demands trying. Yet that same esprit de corps that dwelled in the hearts and minds of the early founders and builders 50 years ago has lived on in this generation, refreshed and renewed by the stimulus of progress and the concern for posterity.

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### Typists:

Anne Ashworth

Kathy Durham

Elaine Hicks

Edna Strader

