

The

50th Anniversary

# Multnomah

May 6, 1973

Vol. I, Issue I

## Public Bidden to View New County Hospital

County commissioners have designated today as formal inspection day when people, who have financed the county's new \$1,100,000 hospital, may see how their money has been spent on structure to house county's charges at new medical center on Marquam hill. Pictured is characteristic view of building, which will be ready for occupancy in about three months.

—from the Oregon Daily Journal, Sunday morning, November 26, 1922.  
Oregon Historical Society photograph.



## NEW COUNTY HOSPITAL ON VIEW TODAY

Public is Invited to Inspect  
Huge Building on Marquam  
Hill Between 9 a.m., 4 p.m.

When Opened It Is Estimated It  
Will Represent Expenditure  
of More Than \$1,000,000.

The county commissioners will hold open house today, between 9 o'clock this morning and 4 this afternoon, in the new monumental county hospital building, that overlooks the city from the peak of Marquam hill.

"What is that?" strangers ask when they come to town, pointing to where the great building gleams through the mist or basks in the sunshine.

The building can be seen from anywhere on the east side and is hidden from view only on the extreme west side, where the heights at the head of Broadway intervene. It has the appearance of a giant old castle, strategically located above the surrounding countryside.

### PROUD OF BUILDINGS

Portlanders are beginning to take pride in pointing it out to strangers, but few have gone up the hill to inspect it at first hand. So the commissioners decided on open house today, especially since the finishing touches are being put on now and patients will be moved in within three months.

The new hospital has been a storm center, politically speaking, since the project was begun. The old hospital, a built-over frame residence at the foot of Marquam hill, became a disgrace to the community, with grand jury after grand jury recommending that the county replace it.

The commission was divided, some favoring a new building at the foot of the hill, at Second and Hooker streets, where the present hospital stands.

### OFFERED SITE

The county, however, was offered a site, free, on the top of the hill, near the University of Oregon medical school, and County Commissioner Rufus C. Holman led the fight for this choice. He finally prevailed, and in

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## COUNTY PATIENTS IN NEW HOSPITAL ON MARQUAM HILL

The palatial \$1,250,000 building which overlooks the city from the heights of Marquam hill began its use as a county hospital today when about 80 patients were transferred from the old quarters at Second and Hooker streets.

The new hospital, which was more than two years in the course of construction, is one of the finest in the Pacific Northwest. It is in striking contrast to the old building, which was condemned as a dangerous firetrap by the city building inspector some time ago.

The new hospital has one of the best equipped operating rooms on the Pacific coast. It adjoins the University of Oregon medical school on Marquam hill.

The work of removing patients from the old hospital was under the direction of Dr. Harry R. Cliff, county physician, with Mrs. Emma E. Jones, superintendent of the hospital, and Mrs. Rose Weeks, superintendent of nurses, assisting.

The work started at 9 o'clock and by noon all the patients were comfortably settled in their new home. Ambulances were used for the weaker patients, while the rest rode in passenger automobiles. Because of the advanced

age and weakened condition of most of the patients, extreme care was necessary.

The old frame building at Second and Hooker streets probably will be demolished in the near future. It once was a residence, and long has been considered inadequate as a county hospital.

The nurses, who formerly resided at Second and Woods streets, have new quarters on the third floor of the west wing of the hospital.

The finishing touches have not yet been put on the new structure, but the building is near enough completion for occupancy. The county commissioners plan to reconstruct a new road up Marquam hill from Terwilliger boulevard to the hospital next year.

—from the Oregon Daily Journal, August 29, 1923

### PAUPER OR KING

Patients occupied the new Multnomah county hospital for the first time yesterday.

There is more than a million dollars of public money in the building. Taxpayers have winced under the process of contributing it. A great deal has been said in derogation of those who built so ambitiously. But who would pull the structure down? Who would cut it out of the public institutions of Portland?

There is an element of genuineness in a city that wants as good care and accommodations for its sick paupers as for its sick wealthy. There is a feeling of satisfaction in every Portlander to reflect that the spent and worn who were carted out to the new hospital

First Multnomah County hospital, between First and Second and S.W. Hooker and Wood streets, was condemned as a firetrap and a menace in 1915. —Oregon Historical Society photo



yesterday are no longer in a fire-manned shack.

There will be a still greater feeling of pride when Portlanders tell visitors who come to the city that the splendid structure that stands in bold outline on Marquam hill is the hospital for the county poor.

Well fares the land where there is civic pride. The whole strength of a nation rests in the esteem held for its institutions and its people. Potters fields, so-called, are an indictment. "Rattle his bones over the stones, he's only a pauper whom nobody owns," is a sentiment that should have no part in modern life.

The county hospital is not only a hospital but a clinic place for a great educational system. As such it ought to be the best, and it is the best.

It is one of the show places of the city and a place worth showing.

—Editorial from the Oregon Daily Journal, August 30, 1923



# The Multnomah

Published by The Multnomah Hospital Semicentennial Committee to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the opening of Multnomah Hospital on Marquam Hill, Portland, Oregon.

Gale Rankin, *Chairman*; Dr. Michael Baird, Mercedes Bates, Ramona Bennett, Barbara Browne, Marla Clark, Chaplain Dodson, Jack Halley, Ardys Hokeness, Jerry Justice, Max Kersbergen, June Lerma, Ruth Mercer, Frances Morse, Robert Nelson, Anna Jo Ness, Ken Niehans, Shirley Schumann, Dorothy Smith, Father Alfred Williams, Thelma Wilson.

Editor .....Kathy Mayo

May 6, 1973

## POCKET FULL OF MEMORIES

Long-time employees of Multnomah remember well ... the time a young woman waited too long to come to the hospital and delivered her baby in the admitting office right into Assistant Nursing Director Margaret Fox's white cotton petticoat. ... the day enterprising interns swiped a pair of Hospital Superintendent Emma Jones' bloomers and ran them up the flag pole. ... the aroma of chocolate fudge filtering down the hall at night as nurses made candy in the ward kitchens to share with staff and patients. ... when student nurses had to give up nude sunbathing on the roof of Emma Jones Hall because of low-flying aircraft. ... when the circus came to town and elephants marched single file up Sam Jackson Park Road, along with clowns and other performers to put on a show for young Doernbecher patients in the area where the administration building now stands. ... how when it snowed student nurses would borrow bed pans to use as sleds on the TB Hospital hill. ... when the residents and interns used to play football in the old parking lot behind the hospital and when needed in surgery were summoned by a call from the third floor window. ... the day former operating room supervisor Alice Sharf caught an intern rolling a student nurse down the surgery hall in a laundry cart (the intern remembers well the lecture he got).



Two of Multnomah Hospital's administrators are shown in photo taken at the 1959 University of Oregon Medical School Alumni Banquet. They are Dr. Jarvis Gould, 1955-1972, and right, Dr. Charles Holman, who headed the Hospital from 1946 to 1955.

Other administrators include Drs. Harry R. Cliff, 1923-1940; D. W. E. Baird, 1940-1946 and Michael Baird, present administrator.

## Service Awards

### 25 years and more

Jacob Schaffer 32  
Mabel Campbell 31  
Margaret French 30  
Shirley Schumann 26  
Dorothy Smith 26  
Virginia Hollow 25  
Leanne Poole 25  
Gale Rankin 25

### 20-24 years

Mary Campbell 24  
Martha Kastner 24  
Vivian F. Patton 24  
Bernice Setere 24  
Louise Taylor 24  
Edith Trykar 24  
Jean Caldwell 23  
Elizabeth Washington 23  
Barbara Browne 22  
Horatio Lasley 22  
Odalle Robinson 22  
Ramona Bennett 21  
Laverne Honey 21  
Frances Morse 21  
Verneda Newborne 21  
Frances Smith 21  
Lorean Smith 21  
Robbie Bagley 20  
Martha Hancock 20  
Carlena Seaberry 20

### 15-19 years

Amparo Avila 19  
Donna Johnson 19  
June Lerma 19  
Ruth Mercer 19  
Inetta Murray 19  
Murleen Johnson 18  
Louise McCowan 18  
Irene McCoy 18  
Freddie Paden 18  
Orene Rosemon 18  
Nellie Thompson 18  
Elmer Gieler 17  
B. Marie Hall 17  
Ardys Hokeness 17  
Opal Sanford 17  
Gene Trout 17  
Beverly Jane Ward 17  
Ellen Wright 17  
Leona Golden 16  
Thelma Smith 16  
Iola Campbell 15  
Devonia Sproul 15  
Alfred Todd 15  
George Waterbury 15

### 10-14 years

Rosetta Barnes 14  
Mercedes Bates 14  
Wilhemina Cobbs 14  
Doris Hensley 14  
Florence Owens 14  
Jessie Porter 14  
Alice Powell 14  
Gladys Pruitt 14  
Helen Snell 14  
Manning Blake 13  
Prince Jones 13  
Ruby Kelly 13  
Viola Ray 13  
Gertrude Schidleman 13  
Lenolia Talton 13  
Marie Thomas 13  
Dorothy G. Vossen 13  
Jean Amos 12  
Mary Ann Barlow 12  
Mary Calvin 12  
Thelma Frederichs 12  
Helen Harpole 12  
Richard Marks 12  
Patrick McAdams 12  
Mary Lou Moore 12  
Fern Ojala 12  
Betty O'Neal 12  
Harold Sibley 12  
Doris Tracewell 12  
Paul Flynn 11  
Elizabeth Pickering 11  
Irvin Burnham 10  
Berthilla Harrington 10  
Maurine Henkins 10  
Milton Otterson 10  
Lois Peyton 10  
F. E. Rathbone 10  
Elnor Uphoff 10  
Willie Vick 10  
Pauline Weaver 10  
Joan Zapf 10



Jacob Schaffer, center; left to right: Margaret French, Dorothy Smith and Mabel Campbell.

## Remember When?

Those words echoed over and over as four long-time Multnomah Hospital employees sat down recently to reminisce about 30 years of shared experiences.

Storekeeper Jacob Schaffer, with 32 working years behind him, was there to recall 1941, when the supply room was a one-man operation; now there are 3. He started at \$75.00, plus board and room, each month. "I had a wife and home," Jake said, "so the board and room was wasted on me. However," he chuckled, "after a while things improved. I got a 50-cent a month raise."

Paging operator Mabel Campbell, who started on the switchboard in 1941, was there, too. She is still using her phenomenal memory for voices to track down doctors, whether they are across campus, town or an ocean. It is not unusual for a UOMS physician lecturing in—for example Japan—to call, saying merely "Mabel, is Dr. Smith on campus?" Her reply is apt to be an unperturbed, "Yes, Dr. Jones, Dr. Smith is in clinic—I'll ring him."

When she took over as paging operator in 1956 five switchboard operators handled the Hill calls. Today there are 14. Mabel once used an average of 14 record sheets daily, each listing 25 names paged. Now the two paging operators list 26 to 30 pages of calls daily.

"Do you miss the old days?" somebody asked. "Well," said Mabel, "parking was no problem then."

Margaret French came to Multnomah Hospital in 1942 after taking her nursing diploma from Good Samaritan Hospital. After a year's training in the Medical School's nurse anesthetist course (terminated in 1948 when anesthesiology evolved into a medical specialty), she began administering anesthetics at Multnomah. Ether was the most common agent used then. A gauze-covered cone was placed over the patient's nose and mouth until fumes from the ether, dripped slowly onto the cone, anesthetized the patient. While this was going on, another nurse

stood outside the surgery door working a bicycle pump to force air through a hose and into the ether bottle thus keeping the agent dripping properly.

"We did 12 tonsillectomies every Tuesday and Saturday," Margaret recalled, "and we were done by noon. Time and techniques change," she added. "Now they do only five in one day and they're lucky to be finished by 2:30, but there's far less trauma involved for the youngsters."

One day in 1943 a young lady volunteered her services as a staff assistant at Multnomah Hospital. She had been trained by the Red Cross and wanted to do her part for the war effort. Thirty years later Dorothy Smith is still doing her part, and then some. She has been an accounting clerk for the last 17 years, but has worked in every unit of the hospital, even in the operating rooms during the acute labor shortages of the war years.

After her initial stint—2½ years as a volunteer—she stayed home for two months "to empty my ironing basket." But Verda Mitchell, then director of nursing, persuaded her to come back as her secretary.

Dorothy remembers the old days with a great deal of nostalgia ... the protocol in the cafeteria which required everyone to stand when a senior staff member entered ("If Emma Jones came in you remained standing until she sat, so we ate a lot of cold food.") She remembers the medical students who served their meals; one of them was an efficient and charming young fellow named Bill Snell.

She remembers the wonderful birthday and Christmas celebrations when everybody knew everybody and elderly patients cried when they had to go back home. (Some of them still do.)

She also recalls, though not so fondly, all the years she made the wassail for the nurses' traditional Christmas party. "Would you believe it?" said ruefully, "to this day I almost get sick every time I smell hot cider?"

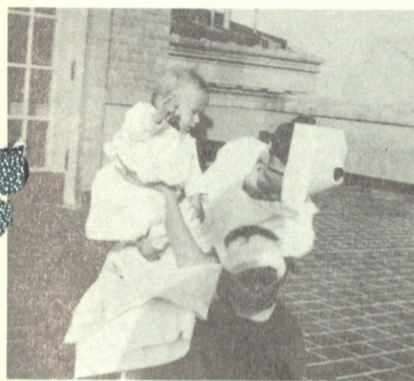
### Nursing Class of 1926

Left to right: Esther Wickman, Margaret Burnie Fox, Ida Witt, Marion Johnson Tichnour, Marjorie Nichols, Louise Hagger Arneson.





# PEDIATRICS UNIT



Before the original Doernbecher Memorial Hospital for Children was built in 1926, youngsters were cared for in 2 South, then in 2 Center of Multnomah Hospital—and on the roof when weather permitted.

Every nice morning a rag-tag little parade meandered down the long corridor into the elevator and up to the roof-floored walled rooftop above the East wing.

There were wheelchair patients and crib-riders, solemn little ambulatory patients in a straggly file, pale babies in nurses' arms, all of them headed for a little fresh air and hopefully, sunshine. These treks were doctor's orders and every nurse in the ward took her turn on roof detail. Head nurse Evelyn Walker (in photo) came, too, whenever she could get away from the ward. So did the young interns, Drs. Morris Bridgeman, Marion LeCocq and Warren Hunter (in photo). Those were the days of many mastoidectomies and tonsillectomies as well as the usual varieties of broken bones, anemias, diabetics, and respiratory problems. Margaret Fox, who was assistant director of nursing until her retirement, remembers the roof detail as a bright spot in the day for many an ailing youngster.

"And for the nurses, too," she added.

In April 1922 when Dr. Charles Mayo was conducted on a tour of the newly completed County Hospital he said, "The hospital is particularly fortunate because of the possibility it offers for cooperation with the Medical School....It is the finest hospital I have ever inspected and I expect it in the coming years to set the model for many advances in medical work in other places."

When the current group of 11 dietetic interns complete their training July 1, the program, headquartered in Multnomah, will boast 261 alumni. Started in 1943, the internship is recognized as one of the finest in the United States with many of its graduates holding national leadership roles in the field.

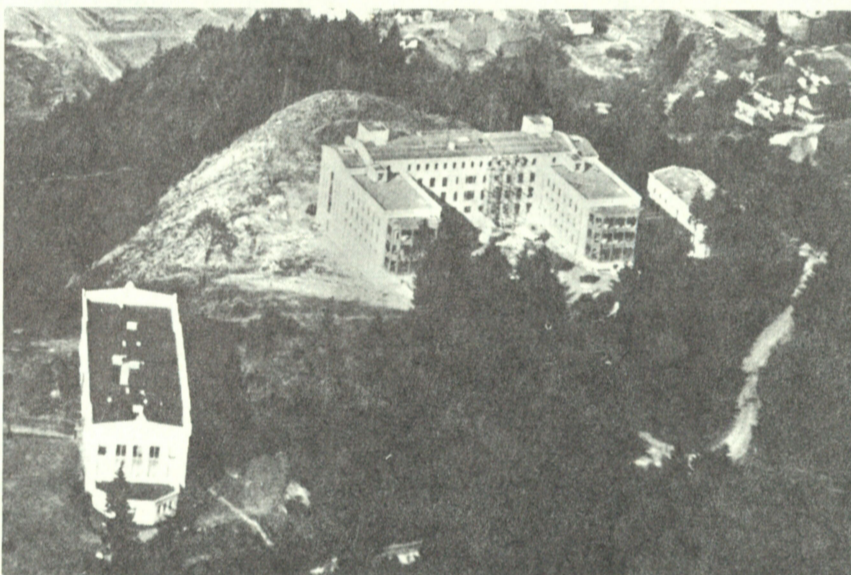
## Interns, 1927

Upper Row, left to right: Drs. Ben Phillips, Gilbert McBee, Harold Nokes, Clarence Gilstrap, Rodney Belknap.

Front Row, left to right: Drs. Leon Kienholz, Veda Povey Sherwood, Howard Staub, D. W. E. Baird.



Aerial Photograph, circa 1920: Medical School, left; Multnomah Hospital, right.



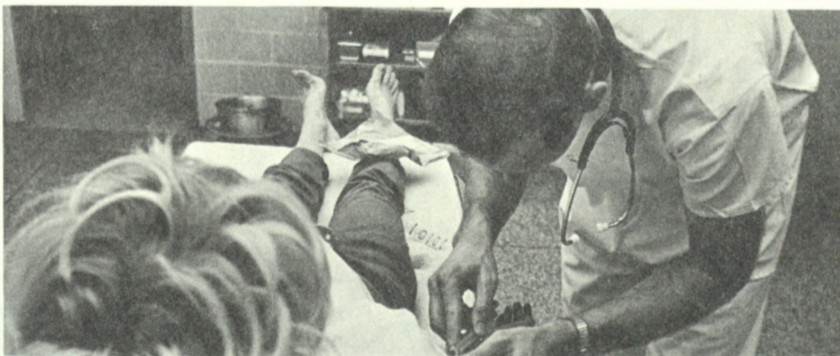
## NEW FACILITIES ADDED

The architects' original design for Multnomah Hospital provided for the future addition of two wings to form an H-shaped building from the initial U-shape erected in 1923. In 1950 the first wing was opened, and in 1969 construction of the second six-story wing was completed. In addition to other patient care areas, the \$3.4 million new structure houses seven steel, glass and tile surgical suites with bacteria-free environments and individual temperature and humidity controls as

well as eye, ear, nose and throat operating rooms containing some of the most advanced equipment in the nation.

Oregon's only psychiatric crisis center, designed and staffed to care for acutely disturbed patients is located on the ground floor of the new section. With completion of the second wing the hospital's bed capacity reached 334.

During the 1971-72 fiscal year 7660 patients were admitted to Multnomah Hospital and 1477 babies were born there.



At 8 a.m. on December 1, 1964, the newly constructed Emergency Unit at Multnomah Hospital opened its doors. Two hours later the first patient arrived and before the day was over 40 persons had been seen. Today an average of a hundred patients a day are treated in the Unit, which houses two minor surgeries, a cast room, 11 examination and treatment rooms, a small laboratory, dormitory space for three

doctors and a reception area. The \$359,000 Unit described by Dean Emeritus Dr. D. W. E. Baird at the time it opened as "an immensely valuable addition to the community as well as the Medical School clinical teaching programs," provides medical and nursing students, residents and interns with a wide scope of practical experience in trauma.



Since Multnomah opened half a century ago over 44,800 babies have been delivered at the hospital. A number of these diaper-set members made headlines with their arrivals. There were the Tigner quadruplets, August, Beatrice, Carole and Dee Jerry, born August 22, 1946, at 1:03, 1:06, 1:09 and 1:11 a.m. respectively. The nursery population also included a set of triplets at one time. Seven-and-a-half pound Esther Jean Randlett made medical history with her birth May 26, 1964. Her mother, Mrs. John Randlett, was the first woman with an artificial heart valve to have a baby. Another first, at least in Oregon, was marked with the arrival of seven-pound seven-ounce Diane Marie Rackliffe, September 27, 1972. Her mom was the first recipient of a transplanted kidney to give birth. Tipping the scales at 14 pounds one ounce when he arrived September 19, 1952, Mitchell Dominic Navarra held the record at that time for being the largest baby born in a Portland area hospital.

## Nurse Cadet Corps Celebrates VJ Day 1946

left to right: Laurie Knight, Gale Rankin, Shirley Clough.



Sixteenth Annual  
**ROSE FESTIVAL**  
PORTLAND OREGON

June 12-13-14 1923

Read Life Photo by Union Pacific Press Bureau  
Allowing design by Callista P. Dowling  
Copyright 1923 of Multnomah State Hospital



# NEW HOSPITAL

—continued from page one—

spite of criticism and wild rumors, the work has progressed steadily.

"Yes, sir," Holman said Saturday, in speaking of the reception. "Not since I was host at my first birthday party have I anticipated or appreciated an occasion as much as this."

County officials, architects and contractors will be in attendance to conduct parties through the building and over the grounds, explaining the arrangement and system of the new hospital, and, to the best of their ability, answering all questions.

The new hospital will have room for the first 250 beds ready in three months. The building was designed in such a way as to allow for two new wings when the necessity arises, which will increase the capacity to a total of 500 beds.

## STAFF IS LARGE

When it is opened for patients, it is estimated that the cost of construction and equipment and the landscape work on the grounds will reach a total of \$1,100,000.

Every modern convenience for the treatment and care of patients has been installed in the new building.

In addition to the corps of attendants to care for the visitors today, the University of Oregon medical school has on duty a large staff of department heads and instructors who wish to exhibit the equipment of the medical school, explaining the work done in the laboratories and operating rooms.

## OVERLOOKS RIVER

The new hospital and the medical school are located on Marquam hill, overlooking the Willamette river. The grounds are reached from a road which turns west from Terwilliger boulevard, after the first loop out of the city.

"We want to urge every person who possibly can to come out and inspect the buildings," said Commissioner Holman. "It is not generally known what a magnificent institution has been placed there on the hill, and we want it inspected and understood, for this alone will bring appreciation."

—from the *Oregon Daily Journal*,  
November 26, 1922

## JOB DESCRIPTION:

### FLOOR NURSE—1887

In addition to caring for your 50 patients, each nurse will follow these regulations:

1. Daily sweep and mop the floors of your ward, dust the patient's furniture and window sills.
2. Maintain an even temperature in your ward by bringing in a scuttle of coal for the day's business.
3. Light is important to observe the patient's condition. Therefore, each day fill kerosene lamps, clean chimneys, and trim wicks. Wash the windows once a week.
4. The nurse's notes are important in aiding the physician's work. Make your pens carefully; you may whittle nibs to your individual taste.
5. Each nurse on day duty will report

every day at 7 a.m. and leave at 8 p.m., except on the Sabbath, on which day you will be off from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

6. Graduate nurses in good standing with the director of nurses will be given an evening off each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if you go regularly to church.
7. Each nurse should lay aside from each pay day a goodly sum of her earnings for her benefits during her declining years, so that she will not become a burden. For example, if you earn \$30 a month you should set aside \$15.
8. Any nurse who smokes, uses liquor in any form, gets her hair done at a beauty shop, or frequents dance halls will give the director of nurses good reason to suspect her worth, intentions and integrity.
9. The nurse who performs her labors, serves her patients and doctors faithfully and without fault for a period of five years will be given an increase by the hospital administration of five cents a day providing there are no hospital debts that are outstanding.



## Emma Jones Remembered

Emma Jones was born, reared and buried in Chicago but it was in Portland that she left her mark in the health care field.

Superintendent of Multnomah Hospital for over 30 years, Mrs. Jones was a late comer to nursing, not having begun her training at Chicago's Cook County Hospital until after the death of her husband.

She came west in the early 1900's to take over the Superintendent's job at County Hospital, then located at Second and Hooker Streets. When, in 1915, local newspaper headlines declared the hospital a firetrap and menace that should be discarded at once, Mrs. Jones confirmed the charges:

"There is only one telephone, no elevators, no proper nor adequate fire escapes, no heat in the place during one eight hour shift and though we can keep the bed bugs fairly well controlled by fumigation, the rats are a constant and never ending problem, both while alive and more especially when dead. If we are fortunate enough to kill one in the open, well and good, but when one is only injured or poisoned, they crawl into the wall spaces and die, and you can imagine the results. We are always overcrowded and often have to

resort to the use of our 'Roof Garden.' This is actually on the roof of the building, covered and enclosed by canvas awnings and when it rains the nurses and attending physicians are forced to don boots to make their way from bed to bed."

There were no funds available at this time for the erection of a new hospital so a counter proposal was made that surplus patients be "farmed out" to the various hospitals in Portland and a committee was appointed to investigate the feasibility of a plan such as this. The committee's report showed this to be impracticable, as the only hospital willing to cooperate under this plan was St. Vincent and their rates were considered much too high. They offered to take care of the overflow at a flat rate of \$8.00 per week, drugs, use of the surgery, anesthetics, etc., to be extra; while in past years Multnomah Hospital had managed to care for their patients at the low average of 78¢ per day per patient.

When the new hospital finally was built on Marquam Hill in 1923 it was Superintendent Jones who supervised moving the 80-some patients from the rat infested hospital on Hooker Street to the "palatial" new hilltop quarters.

Mrs. Jones continued to serve as Superintendent until her retirement in 1944. She moved to Chicago to live with a niece and later moved to Pittsburg where she died June 22, 1958, at the age of 90 plus.

In honor of her contributions to the care of the county's sick and needy a nurses' residence, constructed in back of Multnomah Hospital in 1927, was named Emma Jones Hall. It still stands —now as a memorial to her dedication.

## FRENZIED SPENDING

The county hospital continues to be an example of the wild-cattling of public moneys by an unrestrained commission. A report by the county auditor now discloses that the architects have been paid a total of \$16,400, a sum equivalent to the customary 5 per cent commission on a total expenditure of \$328,000, yet only \$285,806 has so far been expended in construction. It is also disclosed that a new contract has been entered into with the architects providing for a further payment of \$14,400 in the year 1921 or a total

of \$30,800 for architects' fees alone. The contract has been changed three times, each time giving the architects more money. On the basis of architects' fees now contracted to be paid the building cost at the close of 1921 will be \$616,000, with the end of spending on the institution not yet reached.

The prospective expenditure on the county hospital approaches the million-dollar mark and more. The institution has been located on a high hill where one of the first, if not the first, height additions to Portland was plotted more than thirty years ago but yet remains undeveloped because of its isolation.

It is not reached by streetcars or by paved streets, but only by a steep, narrow, winding road or else by a long, roundabout route.

To save money vast quantities of earth excavated from the site were dumped over the edge of the steep hillside. Frequent slides of this earth have blocked one of the main highways leading into the city, causing untold inconvenience and have endangered life and property. Night and day watchmen are required on two roads to warn approaching vehicles of impending danger.

On the other hand, home-made, durable and economical brick have been rejected and material imported from another state at higher cost because its color or texture better pleased somebody's esthetic taste.

Manufacturers have unloaded on the county an expensive X-ray apparatus for use in the hospital, selling at the peak of war prices and two years before it can be put to use.

To keep going the extravagances of the undertaking, money in the interstate bridge fund which ought to be drawing interest has been diverted.

A county hospital, which is an institution for the care of indigents, is needed. But do indigents need a million-dollar hospital? Patients able to pay get along nicely at St. Vincent's, whose buildings are of an estimated value of \$450,000, or at Good Samaritan, whose buildings have an estimated value of \$400,000. Our city hall with all its ornateness and its furnishings was built with a bond issue of \$500,000.

—from the *Oregon Daily Journal*,  
February 9, 1921

## Emma Jones Hall, circa 1926

—Oregon Historical Society photograph.

