



Located just down this country road, the clinic serves the needs of a large rural area.



Sister Mary Scholastica, RSM, runs the clinic on a day-to-day basis, performing many duties, and is "absolutely indispensable" to the doctors.

# WOODHULL:

**Woodhull** — Health care in rural areas has become an increasing problem, often when a resident doctor retires or dies, the community is unable to find a replacement, resulting in the loss of readily accessible health care to many persons.

Dr. Fayette D. MacDonald had served the medical needs of the rural town of Woodhull and the surrounding communities in Steuben County, along the Pennsylvania border for 30 years before an illness forced his retirement. As a result, the area on old Route 17, west of Corning and southeast of Hornell, was left without a doctor. The nearest hospital is 25 miles away, either in Hornell or Corning.

Discussions, originally between St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell and Corning Hospital, to help solve the problem resulted in the innovative MacDonald Medical

Center, named for Dr. MacDonald, housed in renovated quarters in the Woodhull Town Hall.

Staffing the medical center when it opened March 15, 1974, were Sister Mary Scholastica, RSM, a nurse practitioner, and Dr. Nasar Chaudry, a doctor recently moved to Hornell. Originally Dr. Chaudry spent two days each week at the center; now four doctors representing two group practices spend one day every two weeks seeing patients in Woodhull. Two pediatricians alternate on Tuesdays, and two general practitioners, including Dr. Chaudry, alternate on Wednesdays. The center lists about 2,000 patients, Sister Scholastica said, and has had 2,413 visits during the first 10 months of 1976.

The daily operations are the responsibility of Sister Scholastica, who as a nurse practitioner is able



One of Sister Scholastica's duties is to take the blood pressure of the patients.

Text by Martin Toombs  
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