

# Specialized Burn Care Unit

burn-unit to "promote healing and recovery of burn patients."

She also emphasized that the burn project has received more community support than any other the hospital has been involved with; the hospital is "deeply grateful to all who have made this dream possible," she said.

Sister Martha presented awards recognizing the special efforts of several hospital employees that contributed to the unit, including Dr. Marshall, Dr. Sonsire, Sister Marie Michael, project director, Sister Margaret Adelaide Owen, construction coordinator, Arnold Jerome, hospital vice president, for his work on the Appalachian Regional Commission grant; Vincent Joseph, who worked on state construction approval; Bill Lafferty, head of buildings and grounds; and Stanley Douglas, Community Relations Director.

Judge Daniel J. Donahue, hospital board of directors chairman, noted the "special terror" many have of being severely burned; and the advances that have taken place in burn care since World War II, many as a result of the Apollo space program, he said.

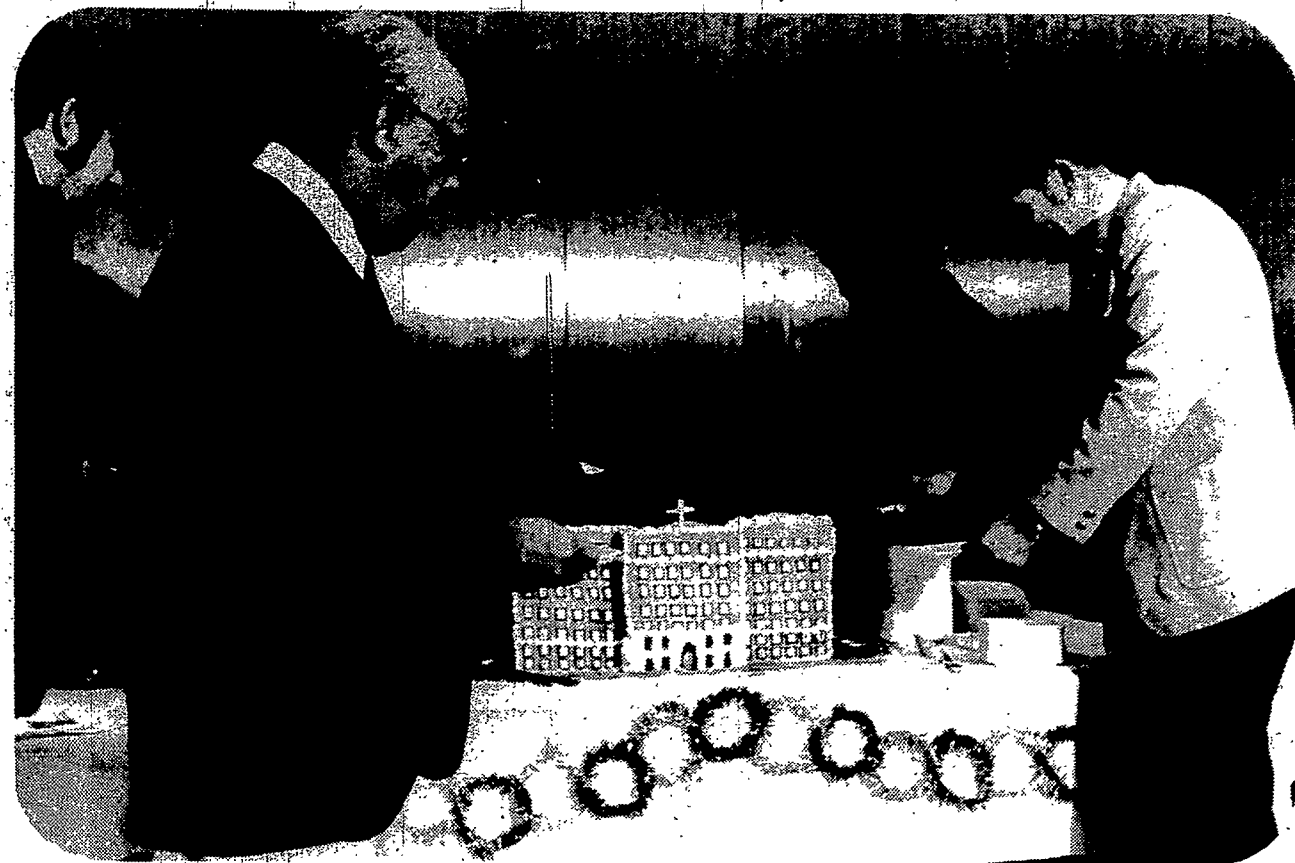
Dr. Marshall noted that burn care is a long term process, involving many months of treatment, and requiring the support such as the hospital has received from area firefighters.

Participants in the "hose cutting" opening the unit were Sister Martha, Richard Sullivan, deputy chief, Horseheads Volunteer Firemen; William Jones, chief, Southport Volunteer Firemen; Thomas Walker, fireman, Elmira Fire Department; and Smokey the Bear.

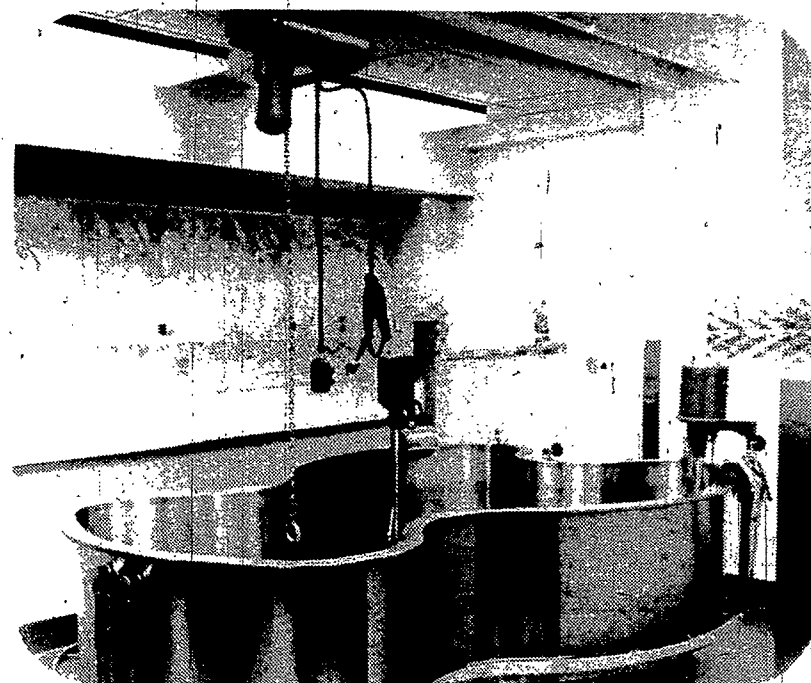
The unit is equipped with special burn treatment equipment, including a hydrotherapy tank and special monitoring equipment. The unit is maintained at a high humidity and elevated temperature, the environment most comfortable for burn patients. The four-bed unit has two single reverse-isolation rooms, protecting the patient against infection, and two regular patient rooms. In addition, the forms on the floor near the unit will be available in the later stages of care, giving the unit a total capacity of 40 persons.

Among the specialized equipment available is a weighing system, which weighs the patient and the bed, subtracting the weight of the bed, so a patient's weight can be accurately charted; a mud bed to avoid bed sores; a special treatment table; two Apollo warmers, which provides additional warmth to the patients, and a crib for the care of a burned child.

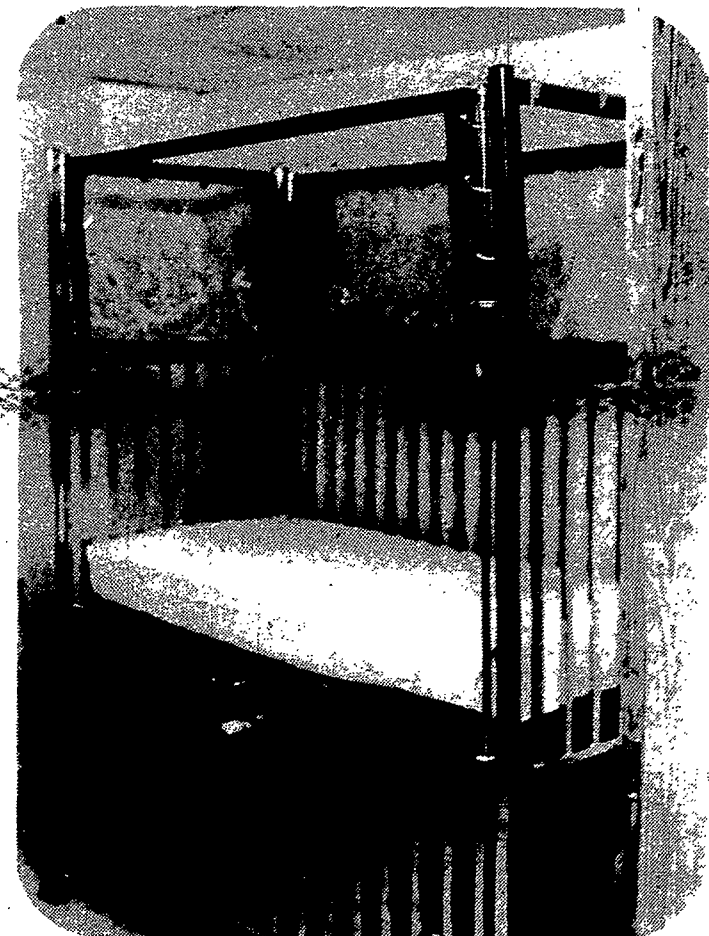
The unit's importance was illustrated by the fact that some of the equipment was not on display; it was being used for a Watkins Glen man burned recently, who was being cared for in the rooms used for burn care during construction of the new unit.



A cake in the shape of St. Joseph's Hospital, with a fire helmet on top, was donated by Jack Wheeler's Creative Bakery for the occasion.



The hydrotherapy tank, an important tool in burn therapy.



A special crib, used for a burned child.

Text and Photos by Martin Toombs



Kathy Swinsick, head nurse in the unit, conducting a tour.



A manikin helps demonstrate the use of a reverse-isolation patient room. The various monitoring equipment is shown, and the Apollo warmer over the bed, used to maintain a patient's body temperature.