



Shown above is one of St. James Mercy Hospital's five new operating rooms. The new emergency department, patient registration, surgical suite and intensive coronary care unit opened in November, 1989. At left is an operating room at St. James Mercy around 1940. (All photographs are courtesy of St. James Mercy Hospital's Community Relations Department.)

Hornell

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James Mercy purchased its newest lifesaving equipment — the emergency respiratory and cardiac-arrest cart that would be put to use throughout the hospital in life-threatening situations.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, hospital officials focused their attention on increasing the access to health care for people in the rural areas around Hornell.

"There are 11,000 people in the city of Hornell, but there are more than 100,000



Sister Mary Aquinas, RSM, served as administrator from 1934 until her retirement in 1956.

people throughout (Steuben) county," Sister McNiff said. "We had to find ways to get quality health care to people in the rural communities."

The first rural facility to open was the MacDonald Clinic in Woodhull in 1974. According to Sister Caufield, physician assistant/nurse practitioner at the facility, approximately 1,500 people sought medical attention there in 1989. "We couldn't do what we do here without the spiritual backup we receive through prayer ... and the medical backup we get from the hospital."

St. James Mercy Hospital officials have continued to provide satellite clinics for rural patients with the opening of nurse-practitioner facilities in Troupsburg and Greenwood in 1983, and one in Cameron last year.

Although it has enjoyed much growth throughout the past century, the hospital has had to weather various storms as well. One of the more difficult times for hospital officials came in the beginning of 1986, when Hornell's other hospital, Bethesda Community, closed because of financial difficulties. According to Sister McNiff, officials at both hospitals tried to merge services for more than a decade.

"The two boards of both hospitals worked very hard on the merger for 10 to 12 years," said Sister McNiff, who said she was extremely disappointed when the merger failed. "There were many opponents with the merger. People felt they had the right to two hospitals in a city this size."

After experiencing an increased demand

for both inpatient and outpatient services due to the Bethesda closing, St. James Mercy officials received approval to lease the building.

Following substantial renovation, officials purchased the former Bethesda facility and the building was named Mercycare. The State Review and Planning Council granted approval to St. James to establish a 20-bed alcoholism treatment unit at Mercycare.

Two years ago, the 55-bed nursing home Residential Health Care Facility and Dialysis Center at Mercycare were completed and dedicated.

And last year, the Urgent Care Center opened in the Canisteo Street Medical Building to serve "patients who don't need emergency-room care," Sister McNiff said.

In November, 1989, the new emergency department, patient registration, surgical suite, intensive coronary care unit and new lobby opened.

St. James Mercy Hospital, which today employs approximately 700 people, has meant 100 years of excellent care for people in Hornell — including its mayor.

"My brothers and sisters were all born at St. James," said Mayor Shawn Hogan. "St. James has always had that feeling of tranquility ... there is a peaceful type of setting."

Hogan, whose four children were also born at St. James, commended the Sisters of Mercy for their dedication.

"The personal touch of the Sisters of Mercy gives the institution a personality of its own ... they are constantly striving to serve the needs of the community," he said.

And as the hospital begins its second century, Sister McNiff said that Father Early would be proud of his legacy.

"I think he would be very pleased with the quality of the care here," Sister McNiff said. "The new hospital is so warm."



In the early 1950's, officials of St. James Mercy Hospital raised funds in order to pay for the remodeling of the south wing. The construction housed an enlarged maternity ward.

*A Mother's Love
Never Ends*



On this holiday, we pay tribute to the special women who have earned the title of "Mom." Motherhood takes a commitment to make each child's world a better one. It seems a mother is always there to lend a smile and a helping hand.

May the appreciation we show to our mothers this Mother's Day last throughout the entire year.

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