

THE FIFTIES

1950

- July 28—A formal **ground breaking** was held at the present site with local farmers and board president Emil Bender turning the first spadeful of earth.
- Fund raising continued.

1951

- Building continued with many association members pouring concrete and taking on some of the construction tasks.

1952

- March 30—Robert Mullen supervised the opening day ceremonies, with **Joe Newfield** and **Amy Boynton** assisting. The invocation was provided by the **Rev. Edwin Sweet** of the First Methodist Church. Board chair Emil Bender cut the ceremonial ribbon at the hospital's front door and Ditmanson offered brief congratulatory remarks.
- By now **John Prescott** was the hospital administrator, and he oversaw 55 patient beds, two surgery suites, two delivery rooms, two nurseries, a medical-records room, a pharmacy operated by **Robert Hunnel**, a lab and X-ray suites.
- April 8—**Terry Patterson** of Galt becomes Lodi Memorial's first baby, delivered by Vernon Greer, MD.

1955

- Accreditation—**Full accreditation** was granted for the first time in 1955, even though the association encountered vigorous opposition when it maintained that only medically-certified personnel could practice in the new hospital. Accreditation standards cover the physical plant, safety standards, patient care and administration.
- Annual Christmas breakfast tradition begins for doctors and their staffs served by the hospital's nurses; and for staff served by hospital managers.

1956

- The ladies auxiliaries raised \$7,000 to build the hospital's own laundry which began operation on site.
- An **\$18,000 grant, from the Ford Foundation, financed the first addition** to the hospital, that included a recovery room, a labor room and four new private-patient rooms.
- The hospital becomes fully accredited.

1958

- **Kayte McKay**, hospital administrator, reports at the annual dinner that hospital census was settling down to routine highs and lows. Births and surgeries were up thanks to improvements in the surgery annex and the addition of recovery rooms for post-delivery patients. Total income for the year was \$463,258, and expenses were \$450,298.

1959

- Board president **Robert Rinn** urges association members at the annual dinner to keep abreast of Lodi's growing needs and help the efforts to expand the hospital by building additional rooms.
- The hospital boasted **34 active medical-staff members**.
- The cost of maintaining a Lodi Memorial patient for a day was \$22.23.

Memorial Hospital Dedication

LODI NEWS-SE

SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR

LODI, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1952

Hospital Will Hold Open House

Dedication Of Building Set For Tomorrow

By SYDNEY ROSEN

From 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon until 8 in the evening citizens of Lodi will explore the Lodi Memorial Hospital, which they have built in seven years of community endeavor.

Visitors will wander through the three-story building, and find one of the most modern and completely equipped hospitals in Northern California.

The 55-bed hospital is equipped with two surgeries, two delivery rooms, two normal newborn nurseries with ten bassinets in each, two isolation nurseries with two bassinets in each, a laboratory, an x-ray unit, a pharmacy, and a complete medical records room.

Community Effort

Traces of community effort will be found in nearly every corner.

In the two surgeries are surgical supplies sewn by 100 Lodi women who donated 500 hours of their time. These surgeries are equipped with every known device for medical efficiency, from the non-conductive rubber floors and furnishings which insure maximum safety during anesthesia, to the huge new Castle operating light, the newest of its kind.

In each of the two nurseries are ten bassinets, purchased by the Ladies Hospital Auxiliary. The bassinets are the latest in complete-care units, with a crib in the top for the sleeping infant, a bathing unit on the lower level, and storage space for supplies included in the unit. This new type bassinet insures that the infant need not be left for a moment while it is being cared for.

Two Incubators

The ladies auxiliary also purchased the two incubators and



April 1951, construction is well underway.



First phase of hospital construction is completed.



Cutting of the tape by Emil Bender, officially opening the hospital to some 8000 visitors who toured the building from top to bottom.

Through the Years with Lodi Memorial Hospital Association