Woodward General Hospital To Be Latest in Building Design; Can Be Expanded

Patient comfort and functional efficiency are given top priority in the plans for Woodward General Hospital, for which a $2,500,000 building fund campaign soon will be launched by the South Oakland Hospital Authority.

Designed by Clair W. Ditchy, Detroit architect, the projected 300-bed hospital will be built a short distance west of Woodward at Thirteen Mile road.

The site, a 105-acre plot acquired in the spring of 1945, is in almost the exact center of a 45-square-mile area in Southern Oakland county where only 60 hospital beds are now available to the 164,000 residents, according to George M. Welch, chairman of the Authority's finance committee.

"The grounds," said Welch, "are as large as any occupied by an American general hospital and are easily accessible either by public or private transportation. Parking definitely will not be a problem at Woodward General Hospital. Ample space is provided for any conceivable future expansion of facilities."

The building plan calls for a "T," or airplane-shaped structure with exterior of Indiana limestone. The cross of the T will form the eight-story front of the hospital which will face Coolidge Highway and Woodward to the east. A four-story wing will extend westward at the rear.

Entrance to the grounds will be from Coolidge Highway, 600 feet west of Woodward, and the hospital will be 1,100 feet from the Coolidge curbline, or nearly one-third of a mile from heavily traveled Woodward—far enough to insure quiet. Heating and laundry equipment will be housed in a separate building a short distance north of the hospital.

Private Bats, Sundecks

Patient accommodations will range from private rooms to four-bed wards. Some private and semi-private rooms will have baths and open on private sundecks.

A few of these rooms, equipped with special accessories for comfort, will be available to persons entering the hospital for observation and periodic examnations. In them, such patients may enjoy a few days' rest with complete diagnostic and treatment facilities easily accessible.

The design and location of the hospital will allow sunlight to brighten every room and ward at some time during the day. Color will be used liberally in the interior decoration scheme, lending cheerfulness to patients' rooms and eliminating institutional "coldness."

260-Seat Auditorium

The visitor to Woodward General Hospital will enter a spacious lobby, adjoined by a public lounge, two private waiting rooms, admitting office, cashier's office, information desk, four elevators, flower shop, drug store and a 260-seat auditorium.

Also on the first floor will be business and administrative offices, doctors' lounge and medical library, nurses' lounge, the clinical record department and emergency ward, which will include one four-bed ward, two single rooms, treatment rooms, doctor's office and waiting room.

The clinic, or outpatient department, will be on the second floor with the north section of the front wing housing the radiology department and the south section the physical therapy and central sterilizing departments. On the rear wing's second floor will be the various clinical laboratories.

Surgery on Fourth Floor

The obstetrical department will occupy the third floor with 49 maternity beds in private and semi-private rooms and three and four-bed wards. Seven labor rooms, four delivery rooms and five eight-bassinet nurseries, as well as isolation and premature babies' nurseries are planned.

The surgical department will be on the fourth floor. Twenty-five beds for women and 27 beds for men are provided in the front section, with eight operating rooms and allied units in the rear wing.

Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth floors are similar in plan, each having 51 beds in private and semi-private rooms and four-bed wards. The pediatric department will be on the fifth floor and the roof of the rear wing, adjoining the fifth floor is planned as a play area for children.

Atop the eighth floor will be a large solarium and roof garden. There convalescent patients will enjoy health-giving sunlight and air in pleasant surroundings.

Can Add More Floors

Each floor above the second will have supervisors' stations in the elevator lobbies and all floors will have visitors' waiting rooms adjoining elevator lobbies and opening on public sundecks.

"In planning Woodward General Hospital, the architect has given careful consideration to possible future expansion, in view of its location in one of Detroit's most rapidly expanding suburban districts," Welch said.

"The flexible design will allow addition of four floors to the rear wing without interrupting hospital operation or overloading service departments. New wings may be added either in front or at the rear of the projected structure without disrupting service."

Nice of Them

"What did you give your baby for his first Christmas?" asked Mrs. Richards. "We opened his money box," replied her friend, "and gave him a lovely electric iron."

Team Leaders Study Hospital Model

Leaders of County Division women's teams in the $2,500,000 Woodward General Hospital building fund campaign study a model of the projected 300-bed hospital. Left to right are: Mrs. E. W. Hewson, Troy Township; Mrs. Robert L. Orth, Royal Oak, co-chairman of the county division; Mrs. D. L. Fulkerson, Royal Oak Township; Mrs. Eugene L. Spoehr, Pleasant Ridge, and Mrs. Ross Campbell, Franklin.

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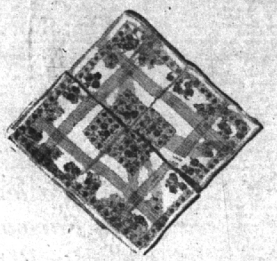

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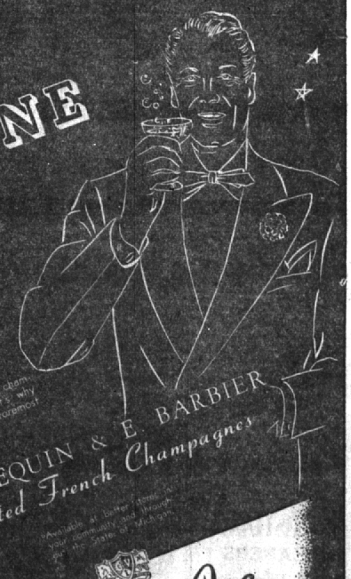

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