New Mercy Hospital Addition Completed

MERCY HOSPITAL ADDITION—Across the top is a full view of Mercy hospital with the recently-completed addition extending from the south side of the old building at the right. The tree partially blocks the view. Directly to the right is a two-panel illustration of the two types of patient rooms in the addition. Left is the single-bed private room, occupied by Mrs. Tom Walsh, and, right, Nurses' Aide Lois Harper is shown in a typical two-bed patient's room. Mrs. Walsh will be the only patient in the addition until after open house. Next panel below shows two views of the maternity ward, which is on the second floor. Mrs. Beatrice Rhule, nursery attendant, stands in the premature nursery at the left and in the regular nursery at the right. The building has a complete kitchen arrangement in the basement with a large kitchen, pictured at the right; a dishwashing room, pictured at the left; and an employes' cafeteria. Standing beside the automatic dishwasher is Inez Rose. (Picture by Paul Jenkins)

TO HOUSE PATIENTS

Open House Set Thursday For $507,000 Structure

By MERLE D. GORS

A brand new enlargement of Roseburg hospital facilities — Mercy hospital's modern $507,000 addition — will be opened for public inspection Thursday evening from 7 to 10 o'clock, when open house is scheduled.

But those who find it more convenient may visit the building Thursday afternoon, according to Sister Mary Natalie, superintendent of the hospital. The addition was built onto the south wing of the old plant, which overlooks the South Umpqua river.

Designed to provide the maximum in comfort and convenience for patients and hospital personnel, the up-to-date hospital structure has a capacity of 47 beds. It will house all patients while the old building will be used for surgery, delivery rooms, X-ray departments and laboratories.

Many other advantages will be gained through the new structure. All patients will be housed in a fireproof building; additional space will be available; kitchen and nursery facilities are much enlarged and improved, and emergency power has been provided.

Adaptations Planned

Certain adaptations are planned for the old building. No date has been set for the remodeling, which will not be extensive.

The Donald M. Drake Co. of Portland handled general contracting, using local labor whenever possible. Architects were Francis B. Jacobberger and John J. Stanton of Portland. Local supervision of the work was under Bob Ewing, job superintendent of the Drake company. Work on the project started April 1, 1950.

Faced with a veneer brick, the structure is equipped with the latest in modern conveniences including an elaborate patient call system whereby each patient can call from a private microphone and converse without the necessity of ringing for a nurse; and there is a paging system for every floor.

Oxygen is piped to every room with outlets available for quick emergency use. Two elevators of the latest type with selective, collective controls (without attendant), serve the building—one for passengers, the other for food carts.

A pattern of green colors for the side of the building warmed by the sun and peach colors for the side generally in the shade is another of the innovations designed to give the patient the utmost in comfort. All windows have Venetian blinds.

Building functions Outlined

Sub-basement of the structure houses the warm-water heating system for the plant—a type of heating designed to be most comfortable for patients. This basement is only partial.

The full basement (first floor level) is devoted primarily to kitchen facilities; the first floor has 14 patient rooms with a capacity of 25 beds altogether; and the second floor has 11 patient rooms with a capacity of 22 beds, in addition to a maternity ward, which includes a premature nursery, doctor's examination room, nurses work room and formula room.

Dining facilities in the basement, which include a pantry, three dining rooms, a large employes' cafeteria and dishwashing room, are designed to serve the entire hospital's capacity, plus any additional capacity created through any possible expansion, Ewing said.

Kitchen Well-Equipped

Kitchen equipment includes food and plate warmers, automatic dishwashing machines which sterilize plates in the process, gas stoves, arranged for direct line convenience. Individual sub-kitchens are and all stainless steel facilities are arranged for meat, vegetables and pastry section. The pantry will contain a deep freeze and icemaking machine.

The new plant has an emergency power generator which can serve both buildings in case of power shortage. A special connection makes the emergency power available to the surgery and emergency departments and the delivery rooms in the old building. It is entirely automatic.

Penthouse on top of one end of the building houses elevator machinery. The kitchen has quarry tile flooring and ceramic tile walls. All exits are fire-proof and fire doors connect the new with the old building.

Heating System Described

Local firms working on the project were Roseburg Glass Co and Totton Cleaning Service. Outside dimensions of the addition are 47 X 145 feet. Losli's Sheet Metal Co. installed the kitchen equipment under a separate contract.

H. E. Hawk Plumbing and Heating Co. of Medford installed the steam boilers, plumbing and heating convectors. The twin boilers are Kewanee fire tube type, one of which is a standby. They build up steam pressure which is converted to hot water, which in turn is circulated to provide heat for the entire plant.

The first floor has three single-patient rooms, which have individual toilets and showers. Two floors have diet kitchens. Radiators, sashes and screens in the plant are all aluminum. Disposal chutes serve every floor.

Adaptable For Additions

The addition was built in a design making it easily adaptable for additional stories to be added. The entire building is of reinforced concrete with metal lathe plaster throughout.

Most flooring surfaces in the building are of terrazzo, a material easily cleaned. Corridors beside patient rooms have linoleum, however, because it reduces noise and is easier on nurses' feet. Acoustical tile on corridor ceilings and silent light switches also contribute to making the building as soundproof as possible.

The present hospital staff of 60 is not likely to be enlarged because of the addition, said Sister Natalie.

Students Finish Swimming Course

Five youngsters have completed the beginning course of the YMCA swimming school and will be advanced to the intermediate class, Merlin Donaldson, executive secretary reports.

Those who have been awarded Fish club certificates for completion of the course are Kay and Vickie Greenquist, Carmen Fox and Jimmie Walker.

Students remaining in the beginning class will take tests for Minnow club certificates on July 6. There will be no classes on July 4, but instruction will be given the first two days of the week.

Applications are now being taken for the second YMCA learn-to-swim course which will be held July 23 through August 3. Instructors will be Mrs. Charles Fox, a University of California swimming team member; Mrs. Evelyn Thorpe, present instructor, Ed Wyatt and Merlin Donaldson.

Students have been enrolled from Glide, Canyonville and Roseburg.