

Hospital Aiming For June Completion Target

Vision Of Many Years Begins To Materialize

A vision shared by residents of the county in foreign years was nearing its coming of truth today as the construction of the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital was on schedule for a completion date in June.

The raising of the new 141-bed hospital, long needed in the Klamath Basin, is a tribute to the community spirit of individuals, families, and business firms in the area who contributed more than \$1 million toward the hospital building fund. That amount is in addition to some \$1.3 million allocated for the building project through the Accelerated Public Works program and 11111 Burton funds to set the \$3-million hospital into operation.

Another \$600,000—part of the cost to equip and supply the hospital—is needed if the hospital is to begin operation debt free when it opens about Sept. 1. Already officials of the hospital board are requesting those financially able to establish memorials for the hospital in the amount of thousands of dollars.

The largest such memorial yet established has come in the form of \$30,000 donated to the hospital in memory of Ralph Macartney, a former Klamath Falls resident, and is to be used to memorialize the eight-bed intensive care unit, the elevator lobby, and a private patient room, all on the third floor of the structure.

As hospital officials were arranging the details covering the third-floor memorial, construction workers under contract to the Todd Construction Company of Roseburg, contractors, were installing the framework for the walls on the same floor. Elsewhere on the hospital grounds, other workmen were installing curbs and gutters and laying a primary surface coating on the parking lot. Meanwhile, plastering had been completed on the second floor and was in progress on the fourth floor of the structure.

Representatives of the construction firm estimated that the hospital board of directors would formally accept the structure before its dedication by Gov. Mark O. Hatfield on June 18. Thereafter, furnishing and supplying the hospital will commence and continue until about Sept. 1, when the hospital is tentatively scheduled to open for patients.

Staffing of the hospital is slated to begin with the naming of department heads sometime next spring or summer and will be followed by the selection of personnel for each of the numerous departments. Ray Nelson, administrative assistant, pledged that locally qualified job applicants will be preferred to persons applying for positions residing out of the Klamath Basin.

Progress on the raising of the hospital has come a long way since January, 1964, despite setbacks due to weather and work stoppages caused by jurisdictional labor disputes. Last March, steel workers began erecting the second story of the structure and before the

end of summer the remaining floors were being set into place. During October, concrete slabs were laid on the ground floor while roofing work got underway at the same time. Elsewhere, other workers were preparing to lay curbs and gutters and spread an asphalt covering on the parking lot.

Meanwhile, a 12-ton absorption chiller, purchased for \$25,000, arrived here from East Orange, N.J., for use at the hospital as an air conditioning unit. The equipment has a 282-ton air capacity for chilling and was obtained from the Worthington Corp. through Brown's Plumbing and Heating of Klamath Falls.

As the structure of the new hospital became more prominent on the Klamath Falls skyline, local clubs and organizations continued to contribute to the ever-increasing building fund. In January, the Lions Club fulfilled its pledge of \$5,000 and during April the Junior Chamber of Commerce donated \$500 to complete its pledge of \$1,500.

Meantime, money raised through the continuing efforts of individuals, clubs and firms to meet their obligations to the money-raising campaign swelled the hospital building fund to \$1.19 million on the first anniversary of the project, Nov. 2.

An unusual fund raising effort—incidental to many such projects held during the past few years to benefit the hospital—occurred several weeks later when Nelson Reed donated 1,000 copies of his children's book, "Let's Pretend," to the Women's Guild of the Intercommunity Hospital. Reed autographed many of the copies which were sold with the proceeds going to the building fund.

October and December marked the period of two labor disputes which temporarily caused a shutdown of certain phases of work at the construction site. As labor representatives sought to settle their differences, work performed by contractors not involved in the dispute continued on schedule.

In the earlier month, plumbers walked off the job in protest against work involving the installation of hand railings that had come under contract to the structural iron workers. Within a few days the controversy was resolved. In favor of the iron workers and soon after the project was back on schedule.

The plumbers also were involved in the dispute during December, when members of the union declined to continue their work under a local contractor who had fallen in arrears on union welfare fund payments. The subcontract was later undertaken by another plumbing contractor and the plumbers returned to the job four days after the controversy developed.

A matter of no conflict but of considerable effort was the task of outfitting and supplying the numerous patient rooms, various departments

New Shape On Skyline

Progress on the construction of the Intercommunity Hospital moved along on schedule recently as indicated by this series of photographs taken on the building site. The photo at left depicts the hospital parking lot against a backdrop of Upper Klamath Lake and snow covered slopes in the vicinity of the Mountain Lakes Wild Area.

Below the panorama is a view of the unfinished third floor showing the interior illuminated with exterior light, while at right is a profile of the southern portion of the building as seen from a corridor on the first floor. At the bottom of the page are views of the exterior of the building.

