

Shelby County Health System

Celebrating 50 Years of Service

Join us at the Shelby County Health System's Celebration
of Myrtue Memorial Hospital's 50th Anniversary on

Thurs., November 4 ♦ 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE & TOURS



The new and remodeled inpatient addition includes three large comfort suites that allow for convenient overnight stays by patients' family members. This suite includes a pull-out couch, stereo and a large bathroom. From left, Debbie Pennington, LPN; Michelle Wageman, RN, BSN; and Beverly Mander, LPN.

- New and remodeled patient rooms and Medical-Surgical work areas
- Remodeled and expanded Emergency and Admissions departments
- New Medical Records department



- Many other Shelby County Health System departments

Plus...

*Historical displays
Refreshments*

The new \$4 million project includes 15,000 square feet of new construction and 12,500 square feet of remodeled space.

EVENT PARKING NOTICE

Please park in Shelby County Medical Clinic parking lot located south of the hospital on Chatburn Ave., Harlan, and enter through the Shelby County Medical Clinic entrance.



The expansion of the Emergency Department allowed the addition of two trauma bays, three private exam rooms, nursing work area, private family waiting area and covered ambulance parking area.



Dream of local Danish immigrant helps make hospital a reality

A Shelby County youth who left home at 16 to start farming on his own was destined to have one of Iowa's finest county hospitals named after him.

The original \$1 million Myrtue Memorial Hospital was started from funds representing 63 years of accumulation through the thrift and hard work of Chris Myrtue.

When Andrew Myrtue brought his wife and 10 children to America from Denmark in 1880, Chris, the third child in the family, was ten. He bore his share of hard work in clearing prairie and breaking sod to wrest a living from the land.

ON HIS OWN

Chris Myrtue felt the urge to make his own way while in his early teens. Bare living necessities were not enough reward for hard work to the ambitious lad who, with his four brothers, helped his father establish the Myrtue homestead in Shelby County's Lincoln township.

When 16-year-old Chris left home, he rented a nearby farm and began his bachelor existence. Though his father would have no more to do with his headstrong son, his mother smuggled food and home baked bread to her son's barren kitchen.

His pioneering days over, Chris bought a 160-acre farm at Correctionville, IA, which he farmed for a few years and later sold to buy more land in Lincoln township.

During the depression and drought years, Myrtue seemed to be able to make money from his land when others failed. He never seemed to have any desire to acquire a hired hand. He was wedded to his land and the land repaid him for his devotion.



One of Harlan's earliest physicians, Dr. Elliot A. Cobb, began his medical practice in 1880 at the north-west corner of 7th and Baldwin, Harlan (above). The home was later converted into a 15-bed hospital operated by Alma Olson and Ida Murphy and the structure was moved to 10th & Farnam, Harlan (below) to make way for a new U.S. Post Office.



Even as his acres accumulated and though he owned five farms, Chris Myrtue lived in the simplest surroundings and his home had but the barest necessities.



SIMPLE LIFE

As his acres accumulated and though he owned five farms, Chris Myrtue lived in the simplest surroundings. His home had but the barest necessities. When relatives came to help him prepare for harvest hands, they often had to bring cooking utensils and dishes from their own homes.

Cooking was done on a battered range, the fire fed with cobs and wood. A coal oil lamp was his light in the evenings and his luxury was a radio from which he got his market reports. Hired men, whom he reluctantly found it necessary to engage when work was heaviest, always had to cook the meals.

HEALTH WEAKENS

In his later years, Myrtue relied more heavily on relatives when ill health overtook him. Though he rallied from pneumonia, he spent several months recuperating at the home of his brother, Martin.

It was after he had been critically ill in the Harlan Hospital then operated by Alma Olson and Ida Murphy (see lower left), that he made his will. Close friends and executors, Lee White, an attorney, and Morris Frederickson, a local builder, said Myrtue had long before discussed with them the possibility of a new Harlan hospital. Both assured him it was a logical place to put his money.

That was in August 1944. Myrtue died in January 1945 at the age of 75, leaving a legacy for Shelby County to enjoy for the past 50 years.

Early Harlan Doctors

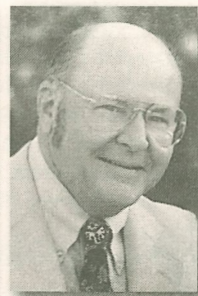
(dates are when began practice)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Dr. Dr. W. J. Ault -- 1852 | ■ Dr. Elliot A. Cobb -- 1880 |
| ■ Dr. L. D. Frost -- 1863 | ■ Dr. E. J. Smith -- 1880 |
| ■ Dr. J. W. Johnston -- 1860s | ■ Dr. J. C. Dunlavy -- 1880s |
| ■ Dr. R. M. Smith -- 1870s | ■ Dr. E. L. Cook -- 1880s |
| ■ Dr. F. A. Bayer -- 1872 | ■ Dr. J. H. Waite -- 1880s |
| ■ Dr. W. H. Thermong -- 1874 | ■ Dr. G. W. Todd -- 1881 |
| ■ Dr. Cowles -- 1877 | ■ Dr. James Bisgard -- 1894 |
| ■ Dr. Ransom Harris -- 1877 | ■ Dr. Edwin A. Moore -- 1903 |
| ■ Dr. J.R. Teller -- 1877 | ■ Dr. F.R. Lintleman -- 1900s |
| ■ Dr. Edwin B. Moore -- 1878 | ■ Dr. Herman Bocken -- 1900s |
| ■ Dr. J. H. Haslett -- 1878 | ■ Dr. James Dewey Bisgard -- 1920's |
| ■ Dr. Franklin -- 1879 | ■ Dr. Carl V. Bisgard -- 1930s |
| ■ Dr. Cartlich -- 1880 | |

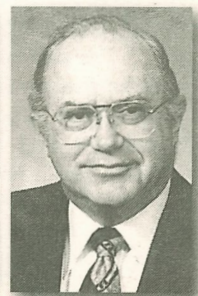
1954 Active Medical Staff



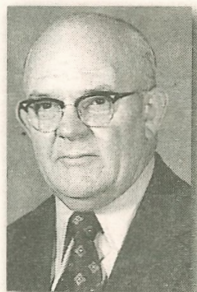
Carl V. Bisgard, MD



Robert E. Donlin, MD



L.V. Larsen, MD



G.E. Larson, MD



W.S. Markham, MD



Jos. H. Spearing, MD



Charles Huntley, MD



Allen Ryan, MD



Edward Vosika, MD



Norman West, MD

Early Harlan Hospitals



Dr. James Bisgard settled in Harlan in 1894. His son, Dr. James Dewey Bisgard joined his father from 1924-1929, then relocated to Omaha. Son, Dr. Carl V. Bisgard assisted his father in the 1930s and also maintained a 15 bed private hospital from 1947-1954 at the corner of 5th & Durant. The photo above shows the apartment complex currently located at that address.

Thirty-six have served as Trustees for Hospital

The work of the Myrtue Memorial Board of Trustees began long before the hospital opened in 1954. Since the first members took office in 1949, 36 persons, including current trustees, have served on the board.

Members of the Board of Trustees since 1949 include:

Rev. Hector Thompson..... 1949-51	Clarice Buman 1977-93
Edgar Larson 1949-53	Robert Mortensen..... 1977-88
Morris Frederickson 1949-61	Leo Hough 1979-80
Joseph Leinen 1949-72	Joanne Ouren 1979-95
Robert Sullivan 1949-72	H. Jack Christensen 1981-89
James Wickersham 1949-75	L. Joe Lauterbach 1981-87
Marion Boose..... 1949-76	Jack Kenkel 1984-93
George Hurley..... 1951-72	Cy Monson 1988-94
Ernest Peters..... 1953-57	Clay Pauley 1989-93
Alvin Schnack..... 1958-76	Rich Goshorn 1990-99
George Clausen..... 1961-69	David Best 1993-99
Jerry L. Larson..... 1968-75	Rob Hall..... 1993-present
Ambrose Muenchrath 1972-80	Todd Langenfeld 1993-present
Harry Burmeister..... 1973-78	Mary Louise Petersen . 1993-present
Arlene Krogstad..... 1973-78	Bob Burton 1994-present
Gaylord Heilesen 1975-76	Carmen Hosack..... 1995-present
Donald Mathiasen..... 1975-80	Cheryl Chipman 1999-present
Emmert Steen 1976-92	Allan Hjelle 1999-present



Myrtue Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees gathered for a July 1952 photo of the cornerstone laying for the hospital.

They included (front row, from left): George Hurley, Harlan; and Stanley Volga, administrator; (second row, from left): Joseph Leinen, Portsmouth; Robert Sullivan, Panama; Lee White, Harlan, the hospital's attorney; James Wickersham, Irwin; Edgar Larson, Harlan; and Marion Boose, Elk Horn; back row: Morris Frederickson, Harlan.

2004 Active Medical Staff

During the hospital's 50-year history, 29 physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners have served on the hospital's active medical staff.



Timothy E. Brelje, MD



Roger A. Davidson, MD



Sarah M. Devine, MD



David G. Erlbacher, MD



RD Lee Evans, DPM



Wing-Tai Fung, MD



Bret D. Heilesen, MD



Donald R. Klitgaard, MD



Scott A. Markham, DO



Dilip K. Parikh, MD



Jill M. Ferry, RNC,
MPAS, PA-C



Denise A. Luna, PA-C,
MPAS



Russell G. Marquardt,
PA-C, MPAS

Hospital Administrators/CEO's

■ Stanley Volga, 1952-58	■ Dave Robertson, 1980-85
■ Clete Turnbach, 1959-74	■ Gene Leblond, 1985-88
■ Mel Clothier, 1974-76	■ Chuck Millburg, 1988-93
■ Gary Perkins, 1976-80	■ Steve Goesser, 1994-2004



Current members of the Myrtue Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees include: (front, from left): Bob Burton, Irwin; Cheryl Chipman, Harlan, vice chairperson; and Mary Louise Petersen, Harlan; (back row, from left): Todd Langenfeld, Earling; Rob Hall, Harlan; Allan Hjelle, Elk Horn, secretary-treasurer; and Carmen Hosack, Harlan, chairperson.

2004 Shelby County Medical Corporation Board

■ Rob Hall, Chairperson	■ Roger Claypool, Vice-Chairperson
■ Todd Langenfeld, Secretary-Treas.	■ Carmen Hosack
■ Roger Davidson, MD	

2004 Prairie Rose Mental Health Center Board

■ Allan Hjelle, Chairperson	■ Cheryl Chipman, Vice-Chairperson
■ Sue Assmann, Secretary-Treasurer	■ Bob Burton
■ Duane Magee	

Local man was first baby born at Myrtue Memorial

Dan D'Arcy was the first baby born at Myrtue Memorial Hospital. Delivered by Carl V. Bisgard, MD, Dan was born on August 2, 1954 to Ed and Pollyanna D'Arcy, Harlan. His mother was admitted as the hospital's fourth patient on August 1, 1954 - the day Myrtue Memorial opened for business.

As the first baby, Dan and his family were showered with gifts from businesses and individuals throughout the community.

D'Arcy, now a Harlan contractor, recalled his family telling him the night he was born, his father was to be a narrator for Harlan's Diamond Jubilee pageant at the Shelby County Fairgrounds. Ed D'Arcy was present for Dan's birth and made it to the pageant - with one minute to spare.



Dan D'Arcy



E.R. & Admissions Remodeling

New Emergency Department rivals city hospitals

The new Emergency Department at Myrtue Memorial Hospital provides privacy for emergency patients and their families, as well as plenty of work space for staff. It features a trauma room, three private examination rooms, nurses workstation, medical practitioners dictation room and private family conference room.

The Emergency Department is located next to the hospital's covered ambulance garage and also features a private hallway to the radiology department.



Two Emergency Trauma Bays provide a large area in which to provide medical care for trauma emergencies, severe motor vehicle injuries and chest pains. The trauma bays features two columns that provide for ample equipment often needed with trauma emergencies, as well as cardiac and blood pressure monitors. Pictured are Tracy Axland, RN and Linda Quinn, RN, BSN, E.D. & Outpatient Nurse Manager.

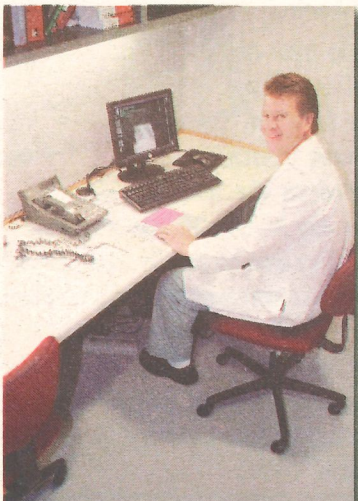


Three private examination rooms allow for treatment of non-trauma emergencies, such as stitches, sprains and other emergency visits. Above, from left Scott Markham, DO, E.D. Medical Staff Director, and Tracy Axland, RN.



The new E.D. Nurses Workstation provides plenty of area for emergency department nurses to chart and complete paperwork. The workstation also features an emergency medical services radio that allows the E.D. staff to talk with emergency medical service providers enroute to the hospital, as well as a radio for federal and state emergency alerts. A private medical practitioners dictation room is located nearby.

Scott Markham, DO, E.D. Medical Staff Director, reviews an electronic x-ray in the medical practitioners dictation room.



At far right, Karen Buman, RN, BSN, checks supplies in the new private family conference room.



The Admissions area of Myrtue Memorial Hospital has been remodeled with new furniture, flooring and admitting desk. Pictured at right is Sandy Conrad, Admissions Clerk.



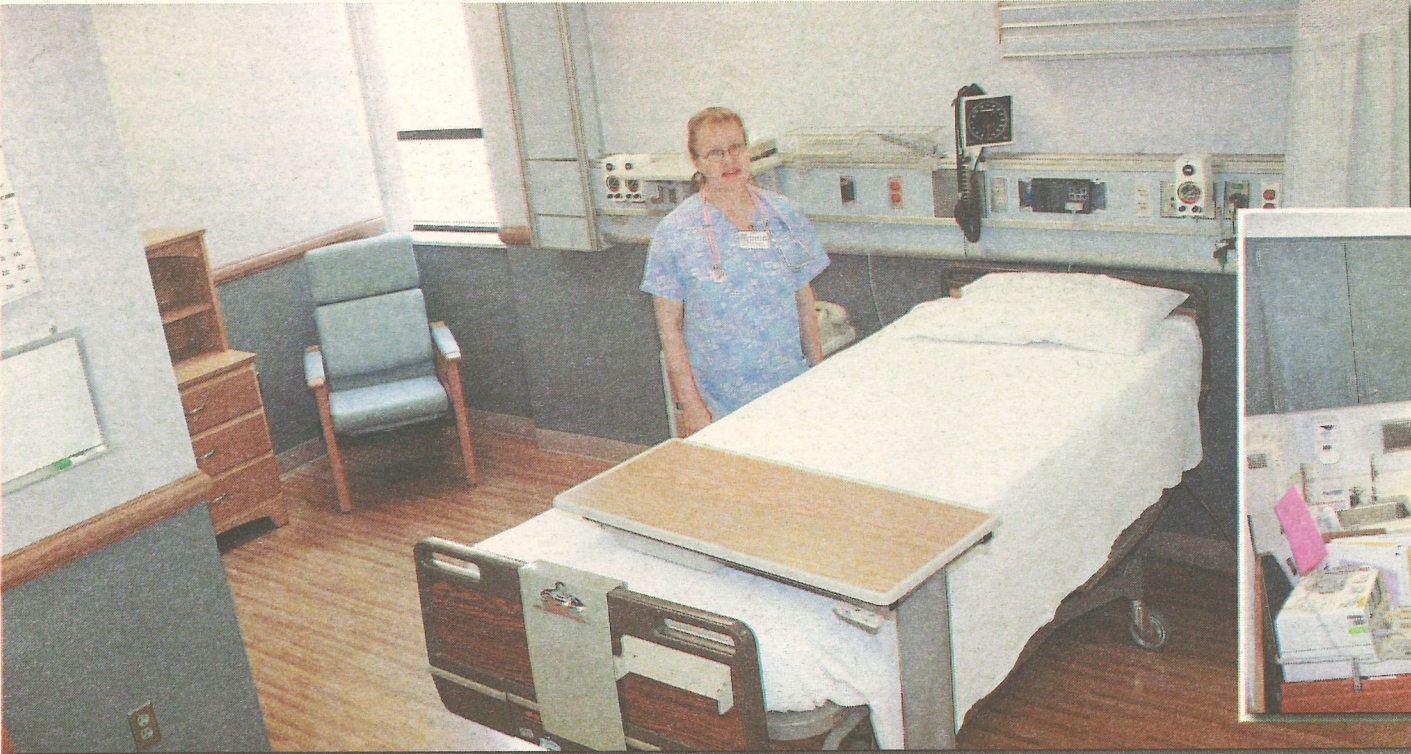
Medical-Surgical Improvements

New construction, as well as remodeling, have allowed for private patient rooms on the patient medical-surgical floor at Myrtue Memorial Hospital. The area also features Comfort Suites for critically ill and hospice patients, an expanded nurses

workstation, nurses conference and locker room, two private intensive care rooms, nurses work alcoves and courtyard/reception area. Also located in this area is a new Utilization Review and Discharge Planning office.

Two private intensive care rooms are located across the hall from the nurses workstation. Pictured at left is Maureen Neumann, LPN.

Below, Jan McElwain, LPN, is shown at one of the intensive care rooms work areas.



The new Utilization Review/Discharge Planning office is located near the nurses workstation. It allows ample room for staff offices and medical practitioner dictation. Pictured, from left, Mary Tremel, LPN; Peg Jans, RNC, Utilization Review Coordinator, and Doris Schmitz, LPN.



A cozy area with access to a courtyard provides a comfortable place for patients, families and visitors. A garden area between two patient wings is planned for this spring. Pictured from left, are Human Resources employees Diane Teno and Kim Euchner.

Knott serves Hospital since its opening

Judy Knott, Harlan, has been a registered nurse at Myrtue Memorial Hospital for the past 50 years – since the hospital first opened its doors for business in August 1954. At that time, Myrtue Memorial Hospital employed 20 persons. Today, the hospital employs 288 and, along with the Shelby County Medical Clinic and Prairie Rose Mental Health Center, the entire Shelby County Health System employs 365.

Knott currently works as an on-call staff RN on the hospital's patient care floor. During her 50-year career at Myrtue Memorial, she has also worked as a head nurse in the medical-surgical patient area, emergency room, obstetrics and pediatrics and was the surgery RN supervisor for 16 years. Prior to that, Knott worked at a hospital in Denver, CO, and at the former Bisgard Hospital, Harlan.

A lot has changed in the practice of nursing during the past 50 years. Knott recalls, "White nurses uniforms and caps went the way of colorful attire. Eight-hour nursing shifts have gone to 12-hour shifts. Hand charting is now computer charting and, of course, continual improvements have been made throughout Myrtue Memorial Hospital and the Shelby County Health System."

Knott added, "I've always enjoyed being a nurse working in whatever area I was working in at any given time. It all centers around pride in providing the best care possible to our patients."

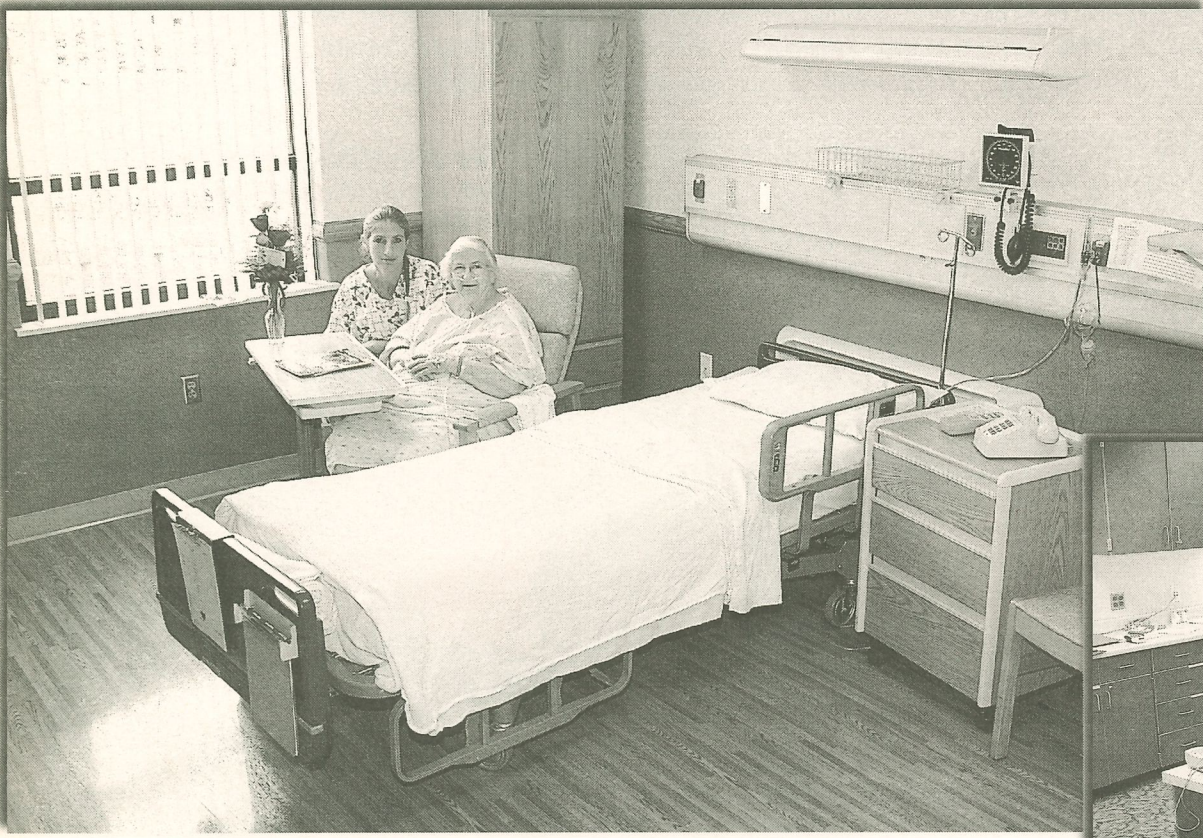


Judy Knott, RN



Lana Wiges, LPN, works at one of the two nurses work alcoves, which provide convenient areas for charting and supply storage.

Medical-Surgical Improvements



The existing hospital patient rooms were remodeled and new private patient rooms were constructed. Pictured is Ruby Vollbaum, Shelby, (right) with Melanie Mogensen, CNA.

The new Medical-Surgical Nurses Workstation, below, provides a large work area for nurses, nurse aides and unit secretaries, with plenty of storage for supplies. It is conveniently located next to the nurses conference and locker room. Shown, from left, Maureen Neumann, LPN; Lois Stockwell, LPN and Frankie Garren, LPN.



Shelby County Health System recognizes the following:



Two important entities to the Shelby County Health System during its history have been the Shelby County Health Foundation and Medivac Ambulance-Rescue Service.

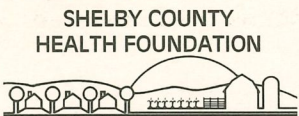
Shelby County Health Foundation

The Shelby County Health Foundation was formed in 1984 to increase the opportunity for medical providers, such as the Shelby County Health System, area nursing homes and local emergency response systems, to improve technology and advance training to better serve the health care needs of Shelby County area residents.

Contributions received by the Foundation are dedicated to maintaining and expanding services to meet area health care demands.

During its 20-year existence, the Shelby County Health Foundation has given over \$2.1 million to aid and support area health care services and programs.

Board members include: Mary Bro, Don Klitgaard, MD; Larry Petersen, Lisa Riggs, Gary Schaben, Doug Robinson, Rob Hall, Roger Claypool and Pat Deren, chairperson.



Medivac Ambulance-Rescue Service

Medivac Ambulance-Rescue Service, Harlan, has been a valued health care entity to the Shelby County Health System since 1979. Medivac employs 20 people, including one critical care paramedic, nine paramedic specialists, six EMT-1s, three EMT-Bs and one office staff person. Medivac staffs three ambulance-rescue units and four wheelchair vans serving the greater Shelby County area with advanced pre-hospital care.



Medical Records Relocates



Medical Records Department moves to new location

The Medical Records Department at Myrtue Memorial Hospital is now located on the ground level of the newly constructed northwest patient wing. The new area is larger, brighter and provides a more efficient layout and storage area for staff members. Pictured, from left, Becky Parsons, Judy Rewerts, director; Kris Maxwell, Cathie Sondag, Jennifer Konz, Ilene Nelson, Janet Nelson, Cindy Suntken, Connie Kienast, Amy Michalik and Gloria Kenkel.

The file area of the new Medical Records department features shelving built especially for medical records. The shelves have dividers to keep records straight, as well as provide for more medical records storage as the storage space is compact. Michelle Ross, file clerk, demonstrates the pullout shelves that provide convenience and record protection during the filing process.



"Operation Hospital" raised nearly \$134,000 in 13-days

The dream of a bachelor farmer, the late Chris Myrtue, for a Harlan hospital was the catalyst that sparked Shelby County to a feverish community-wide 13-day fund drive.

INADEQUATE FUNDS

When trustees of the proposed hospital opened bids on Sept. 12, 1951, they had raised \$900,000 but were shocked the bids were \$150,000 higher than anticipated. George Hurley, a Harlan attorney who headed the trustees, called a meeting of every organization in Shelby County to attempt to raise the money through fundraising.

Hurley was able to delay action on the bids until November 12 and the fund drive was launched Oct. 31, 1951. When the campaign was halted on Nov. 12, the fund had reached \$133,500.

FRUGAL LIFE

Shelby Countians surprise over the cost of hospitals was no greater than their surprise when they learned that Chris Myrtue had left his entire estate to finance a hospital that would serve the county.

Myrtue died Jan. 1945 and, soon afterward, his 779 acre farms were sold for \$200,000. The hospital was to be called Myrtue Memorial Hospital with his will's intent that the community match his gift.

Harlan voted acceptance of the gift, but soon found insufficient matching funds to build a hospital adequate to serve the county, which then was being served by a privately owned 15-bed hospital.

UPHILL STRUGGLE

A suit was filed contending that Myrtue's wealth was more than enough to build a suitable hospital to serve the needs of the community. The court was asked to determine what the fair amount for building a hospital should be and divide the remainder of the estate among Myrtue's heirs.



By the fall of 1953, progress had begun to take shape for Myrtue Memorial Hospital with its planned August 1954 opening. The \$1,050,000, 50-bed hospital was an example touted throughout Iowa as how local funding can make things happen in a community. Throughout its 50-year history, many improvements have taken place.

The suit was settled on March 6, 1948, on a motion to dismiss made by Myrtue's executors, Leland C. White and Morris Frederickson. District Judge Harold E. Davidson, ruled the court had no authority to change, limit or restrict the terms of the will.

The ruling spurred the county to promote the hospital and, in Dec. 1949, voters approved a \$200,000 bond issue and \$150,000 in additional taxes.

Federal matching aid of \$350,000 was approved late in 1950. And with total funds amounting to \$900,000, the trustees had Dougher, Rich and Woodburn, Des Moines, draw plans for a 50-bed hospital.

OPERATION HOSPITAL

The whirlwind "Operation Hospital," campaign to raise \$150,000 was a stirring climax to six-and-

"If one man can give everything he possessed to the county, surely the county residents, as a whole, can complete the job."

A Shelby County resident



This 1954 aerial view of the hospital's construction shows the room for tremendous growth that soon surrounded the hospital. The photo was taken looking northeast with Elm Crest Retirement Community and Merrill Field shown in the upper right.

half years of frustrated hope, controversy and legal snarls.

A committee was formed with Julius Lensch, chair; Bernie Donlin, vice-chair; and Bob Cosgriff, secretary.

The remaining days were spent publicizing the project to the county's 16,893 residents. On the eve of the campaign opening, 700 workers met in Harlan for instructions.

YOUTH & ADULTS PLEDGE

Shelby County Assessor Hans Christiansen volunteered his office for the campaign headquarters. Nine-year-old Franklin Hopp gave the prize money he won on his pony at the fair; Jon Haskins, Harlan High School sophomore, gave \$6 he earned on a Saturday afternoon.

Lonnie Briggs, Harlan barber, gave his earnings for one day. Customers were asked to drop their payments in a fishbowl placed in his window.

An elderly Spanish-American War veteran, George Jorgensen, 74, left a \$1,000 check remarking "It might as well be in the new hospital as in the bank."

At the close of the drive, the goal of \$150,000 had nearly been reached.

Historical articles and photos from the personal files of Donna Christensen-Mores & Alan Mores, as well as the Shelby Co. Health System and Harlan Newspapers.





SCHS Health System Facilities



Shelby County Medical Clinic -

Opened in 1992, the Shelby County Medical Clinic, located at 1220 Chatburn Ave., Harlan, employs 71 people, including nine physicians and three physician assistants, in Harlan and at its satellite clinics in Avoca, Elk Horn and Shelby.



Shelby Medical Clinic -

The Shelby Medical Clinic became a satellite of the Shelby County Medical Clinic in 1992. It is located at 301 East, Shelby.



Prairie Rose Mental Health Center -

Prairie Rose Mental Health Center opened in 1990 and is located at 1303 Garfield Ave., Harlan. The six member staff provides a wide range of mental health services, including diagnostic evaluation, psychotherapy, marriage and family counseling, as well as a variety of programs, educational services, vocational counseling and consultations to individuals, agencies and community groups.



Avoca Physicians Clinic -

Located at 510 North Elm, Avoca, the Avoca Physicians Clinic was built in 1983.



Hospital Auxiliary observes 46th anniversary

The Myrtue Memorial Hospital Auxiliary was organized in 1958, four years after the hospital opened its doors, to provide volunteer and financial support.

Some early Auxiliary projects included raising money through a bake sale and benefit card party to build and stock a gift cart and provide smocks for Auxiliary members volunteering at the hospital. The Auxiliary also purchased Christmas decorations for the hospital and made puppets, monkey dolls and clowns for pediatric patients.

Today, the 352-member Auxiliary has continued its volunteer excellence through projects such as health career scholarships, hosting the annual Pink Potpourri bazaar, organizing first-grade tours during National Hospital & Health System Week, assisting with the annual Shelby County Health System blood analysis screening, staffing and supplying the hospital Gift Shop and staffing the escort desk.

The Auxiliary is also a major financial supporter of the Shelby County Health System. Recent contributions have included a radiant warmer stabilizer for the obstetrics department, surgical microscope, lifeline units and chemotherapy chairs, as well as children's play equipment for the Shelby County Medical Clinic.

Pictured (front, left) Marge Ahrenholtz, Dorothy Andersen, Maryalce Dotlzer, Evelyn Bergstrom and Judy Tamm; (back, left); Kay Johannsen, Pat Pash, Mona Peterson, Betty Markham, Nancy Childs, Barb McCall, Marian Fitzwater, Irma Martin, Zona Bartel, Prue Frederickson and Sandy Nelsen.



GE Larson Elk Horn - Kimballton Medical Center -

Built in 1986, the GE Larson Elk Horn-Kimballton Medical Clinic shares its facility with a pharmacy. It is located at 4022 Main St., Elk Horn.



Shelby County Home & Public Health/Hospice

Built in 2000, Home & Public Health/Hospice shares an entrance with the Physical & Occupation Therapy department at the Shelby County Health System.

