

Chapter II (1954–1962)

1954 - on May 12th, the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, the Nurses' Residence was officially opened, with 12 single, modernly furnished rooms for the accommodation of nurses. Its large living room right across the front, has also seen many happy Christmas parties when the staff was small. It was decorated outside for the occasion, with pink flowers hand-tooled by the staff. It was subsequently called "The A. R. Globe Residence for Nurses". Mrs. Globe officiated at this ceremony, commemorating her late husband's work. In 1973, the number of nurses requiring accommodation in the residence fell to such a low level that arrangements were made to rent it to the Niagara Health Unit.

It might be stated here that there have been dedicated men, following Mr. Globe as Chairmen of the Board: Bruce Reid, J. G. Stevenson, C. H. Birkbeck, Burrell Morris, and L. A. Lillico - each giving of himself to the direction of the Hospital.

1959 - The basement under the east wing was almost finished. It had been a great evening, when the Annual Meeting was held in that corridor, with rows of chairs set up, facing the official table inside the east door. Now we had a Board Room with Medical Library at one end, Medical Staff Room and general offices. By the next year, the opposite side of that corridor was finished, with a new Pharmacy and Stock Room where Accounting now is.

1961 was an important year, when what is now B Ward was opened for use on October 1st. It gave 25 new beds. It had been hard on patients and staff alike when that construction was going on as everyone was right in the middle of it. At one time there was a hole in the roof, with containers under it to catch any rain, for of course, it rained. The elevator was new too, and we had the honour of being the only building in Grimsby with a passenger elevator.

Also the new CSR was finished and equipped, at a cost of \$45,827, and a new Lab, where the Stock Room is now was completed at a cost of \$14,297. With these additions the basement was now in full use for the first time.

At this time, Mr. Birkbeck stated in his Annual Report, "the people living in the various municipalities served by your Hospital now have a \$600,000 "plant" to take care of their needs".

1962 - Highlights and approximate costs:

- Air conditioning for the OR and Delivery Room - \$4,500
- The provision of a Recovery Room - \$2,000
- New equipment for Medical Records Room, such as microfilm and dictating machines etc., - \$2,500
- Two new anaesthetic machines - \$3,000
- Additional equipment for X-ray and Lab - \$2,500

Again, the people of the community contributed their share to the purchase of all this new equipment.

So now, we've looked at much of what it took to make our Hospital up to 1962.