

## Program of Dedication- The Trexler Memorial Building

Lehigh Valley Health Network

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*Program of Dedication*

**THE TREXLER MEMORIAL BUILDING**  
of the  
**ALLENTOWN HOSPITAL**

**September 12, 1953**

# Dedication Program

MUSIC .....	The Allentown Band Albertus L. Meyers, <i>Directing</i>
FLAG RAISING .....	Color Guard, 51st AA Brigade Pennsylvania National Guard
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM .....	Allentown Band and Audience
INVOCATION .....	The Rev. Walter H. Eastwood, S.T.D.
INTRODUCTION OF THE CHAIRMAN .....	Victor R. Schmidt <i>Chairman, Dedication Committee</i>

*Presiding*

WILLIAM J. ROBERTS  
*President, The Allentown Hospital Association*

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS .....	Mr. Roberts
GREETINGS .....	The Rt. Rev. Monsignor Leo G. Fink, V.F. <i>Director, The Sacred Heart Hospital</i> Hon. Brighton C. Diefenderfer <i>Mayor of the City of Allentown</i> Hon. James F. Henninger, LL.D. <i>President Judge, Lehigh County Courts</i>

## INTRODUCTIONS OF THE HOSPITAL FAMILY

REMARKS .....	Robert L. Schaeffer, M.D., Sc.D., F.A.C.S. <i>Chief of Staff, The Allentown Hospital</i>
MUSIC .....	The Allentown Band
ADDRESS .....	Russell E. Teague, M.D. <i>Secretary of Health, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania</i>
INTRODUCTION .....	John Henry Leh
ADDRESS .....	Charles W. Mayo, M.D., LL.D., F.A.C.S. <i>Professor of Surgery, Mayo Foundation</i>
DEDICATION OF THE BUILDING .....	Mr. Roberts
BENEDICTION .....	Rabbi Louis M. Youngerman <i>Keneseth Israel Congregation</i>

*As the Chorus of the School of Nursing sings "Bless This House," George W. Sherer, Superintendent of the Allentown Hospital, will unlock the doors of the new building, officially opening it to its dedicated use—the greater service of the community of which it is a part.*

In inspecting the new building, visitors are urged to follow the route suggested in this program and by the directional signs in the building. The building will be open for complete inspection until 9 p.m. Saturday and from 2 to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

*The dedication program was broadcast by Station WSAN, the Lehigh Valley Broadcasting Company, which also provided the amplification.*

# A Great American Hospital

Dreams of more than a decade reach fruition as the Allentown Hospital opens its new Administration and Patient Service Building to provide continually expanding "relief of human suffering by ministering to the wants of the sick and the injured who may apply to it for such relief, without distinction of race, creed, color or condition."

With the facilities of the new unit and of the older buildings that have been carefully maintained through the years, the Allentown Hospital offers the community the services of one of the largest, most modern and best equipped general hospitals in America. It now has normal accommodations for the care and treatment of 581 patients, including 515 beds and 66 bassinets.

The new six-story building and its adjoining three-story service wing, replacing the original 30-bed unit erected in 1899, was first projected in 1937. Construction was delayed by events of the war years and by the necessity of providing other accommodations for an increasing number of patients while outmoded facilities were being replaced. Ground was broken with the razing of the old building in September 1951 and the cornerstone was laid last October.

Into the new building have gone the spirit of the community whose citizens voluntarily provided the funds for its construction, the meticulous planning and supervision of generous and public-spirited trustees and staff, and the labor of hundreds of artisans and craftsmen working to build facilities that through the years will serve them, their families and their friends.

To erect the building and equip it with the tools modern medical science has devised to extend the span of happy and healthful living cost \$2,225,000. New X-ray equipment alone cost more than three times as much as the \$29,396 expended more than 50 years ago to purchase the land on which the Hospital stands and erect and equip the first building.

Before the original building could be demolished to make way for the modern structure, nearly one million dollars was spent to provide accommodations for patients, service facilities that had to be continued during building operations, and additional housing for the augmented nursing staff necessary for the enlarged hospital. Included in the preliminary projects were the new patient floor over the older service building, completed in 1946; temporary quarters for the X-ray Department and an addition to the kitchens, erected in 1948; the four-story West Wing Annex, occupied in 1950; and the addition of four wings to the School of Nursing, completed in 1951.

Most of the \$3,180,237 that has been spent on new buildings and equipment during the last seven years and the \$1,300,000 spent on earlier construction, has come from the voluntary gifts of the community—its men and women and children, its organizations, its business and industrial establishments. In public campaigns in 1944 and 1952, some 12,000 individuals and groups contributed \$2,155,475 in amounts ranging from 50 cents to \$150,000. Many of the larger gifts were memorials that are indicated on plaques in both the new and the older buildings. The Estate of the late General Harry C. Trexler, for whom the new building is named, has been particularly generous through the years in providing funds both for the new buildings and for maintenance. All buildings, representing an investment of more than \$5,000,000, were built and equipped entirely with private funds. The Allentown Hospital never received a state, federal or municipal subsidy for building purposes.

In spite of the fact that construction completed since the end of the war cost \$1,199,000 more than the total pledged and contributed in the two campaigns, the indebtedness after all pledges have been paid will be little more than \$100,000.

When this indebtedness has been liquidated and other funds become available, the Hospital will replace the old front section of the West Wing, now usable only for auxiliary purposes, with a five-story building. The projected unit will extend the Obstetrical Department, enlarge the department for the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped, and provide new facilities for the care of tubercular and psychiatric patients.

At present construction levels, the cost of this final addition to the Hospital plant is estimated at \$800,000. A number of contributions toward its erection have been received during the past year and have been placed in a special West Wing Building Fund.

# Inside The Open Doors

This description of some of the Hospital's new features follows the tour route suggested by the arrows.

The first two floors of the new building are occupied by patient services, including offices, the X-ray Department, the laboratories and surgical auxiliaries, and by accommodations for the staff and its continuing educational program. The third, fourth and fifth floors are given over almost entirely to private and semi-private rooms with a normal complement of 71 beds. Internes and residents, constantly on call throughout the Hospital, have private living quarters on the sixth floor. The basement has specialized clinical rooms for the treatment of patients not required to remain in the Hospital, a few offices and some general service facilities.

Like all patient buildings of the Allentown Hospital, the new unit is fireproof and is steam heated from a central plant. Ceilings are acoustically treated and the floors in patient areas are rubber tile to help absorb noises. Other floors are ceramic tile. Both incandescent and fluorescent lighting are used, with most of the fixtures flush with the ceiling.

## FIRST FLOOR

The warmth and friendliness characteristic of the Allentown Hospital are reflected in the pleasant lobby with its rich two-toned Tennessee marble trim. Comfortably appointed lounges on both sides of the street-level entrance are for the convenience of visitors and for patients awaiting transportation after they have been discharged.

Hospital communications center at the **Information alcove**, just a few steps from the main entrance. Here a trained receptionist has a complete roster of all patients and, by glancing at the registry board controlled from a panel on the opposite wall, can tell immediately which members of the professional staff are in the Hospital. The two-position telephone switchboard at the information center has access to 15 outside lines serving more than 100 extensions in private and semi-private rooms, nurses stations, offices and other strategic points. Public telephones are located on every floor. A paging system extends to all parts of the old and new buildings.

**Offices** of the Director of Nursing and her associates who supervise both graduate and student nurses and direct the School of Nursing are located across the front of the building along the East corridor.

**The Hospitality Shop** is a project of the Junior Auxiliary of the Allentown Hospital. Here visitors will find a wide variety of gifts for patients, candy, cigarettes and snack bar refreshments. A mobile canteen from the Hospitality Shop visits all parts of the Hospital. The Junior Auxiliary devotes its profits to the development of the Hospital and to the greater comfort and service of its patients.

A beautifully appointed **Family Room** has been provided for the use of those who may have occasion for quiet meditation or private conference while a loved one is a patient in the Hospital.

**Toilet rooms** for visitors and staff and wall lockers for Hospital personnel are located at the eastern end of the first floor. A corridor leads to the elevators and stairways serving the wards and the private rooms of the commodious East Wing.

## THIRD FLOOR

The cheerful and well-lighted **patient rooms** along the main corridor of this floor are identical to those on the fourth and fifth floors. There are ten single-bed and four two-bed rooms on both the third and the fourth floors and seven single and eight double rooms on the fifth floor. Many of the single rooms are large enough to be converted into two-bed rooms to meet emergencies. Two rooms at both ends of the third and fourth floors have private toilet rooms and are furnished with Hi-Lo beds that may be adjusted to hospital height or normal height.

All rooms are decorated in soft pastel tones with harmonizing drapes. Beautiful bleached oak furniture for each patient includes a bed that is adaptable to every prescribed position, a dresser, a bedside cabinet, an adjustable overbed table with compartments for the patient's personal toilet articles, a comfortable leather-upholstered lounge chair and a side chair. All beds are furnished with foam rubber mattresses and pillows.

At each bed there is an outlet for oxygen that is piped from a central supply reservoir in the basement of the building. Built-in aspirators that eliminate the need for cumbersome portable apparatus are located convenient to all beds. Each bed has its own provisions for supporting transfusion sets and similar equipment at any desired position. Most of the rooms have spacious closets for each patient's use.



A Typical Semi-Private Room in the New Building

1-2-3—**Bathroom and toilet facilities** for the use of convalescent patients include a tub room with a convenient step-in tub. There are separate rooms on each end of the floor for cleansing and sterilizing sanitary equipment used in patient rooms.

4—A **sitz bath**, oftentimes desirable as an aid to convalescence, is another facility on all patient floors.

5—Every floor has a cool room designed and equipped specifically for the overnight **storage of flowers**.

*Until the operating pavilion that is being reconstructed on the second floor is completed early this winter, most of the rooms along this corridor will be used as operating suites. The greater part of the area, however, has been designed for the use of the Urology Department which will be established here as soon as the operating pavilion is reoccupied.*

6-7—When the floor is permanently occupied, these rooms will be the **surgical supply centers** from which all sections of the Hospital will requisition sterile supplies and other appliances. The east room has facilities for preparing intravenous solutions that will be served to all parts of the Hospital. The west room is equipped with an electric lift from the surgical work room on the floor below.

8—This room ultimately will be the **office** of the Chief of the Urology Department.

9—The department will have its own **laboratory and darkroom** for specialized tests.

10—The **consultation and examining room** for urology patients has its own toilet and shower rooms.

11—Many urological procedures, including surgery, will be done in the **cystoscopic room** which has its own specialized X-ray equipment. Like all other operating rooms, it is static-free and has protected switches and electrical outlets. There is a lead-lined room for the X-ray technician.

12-13—Two five-bed **semi-private wards** will be reserved exclusively for the care of urology patients.

14—A **utility room** is equipped with an autoclave for sterilizing instruments and supplies and has two water sterilizers.

15—The **nurses station** for urology service has security cabinets for medications, charts and supplies, and a rest room and powder room for the nurses on duty.

*Although most of the Hospital's X-ray equipment is concentrated in this wing, other units are strategically located in areas where they have specialized uses. The orthopedic operating room on the second floor is equipped with a biplane fluoroscope that moves freely over the fracture table to give the orthopedic surgeon a view of the bone structure from two levels. The urology department has its own X-ray unit. Two portable units are used for bedside studies and in the operating rooms. A Polaroid developing unit can be taken to the operating rooms to develop special films in 38 seconds.*

## FIRST FLOOR

1—The most modern equipment for exhaustive radiographic diagnostic studies and Roentgen therapy has been installed in the new X-ray wing which provides almost four times the space formerly available to the department. This new **fluoroscopic and radiographic** unit is equipped with a Fluorex, an electronic device which magnifies the image of the site under observation 200 times for more detailed examination.

2—Like all rooms housing X-ray equipment, this one is lead-lined and has a shielded compartment to protect the operator from continuous exposure to radiation. It is equipped with light-proof locks through which new and exposed plates may be safely exchanged. This unit is for **general radiographic diagnostic work**.

3—**Dressing rooms** with toilet facilities are adjacent to the major radiographic rooms which they serve.

5—A second **fluoroscopic and radiographic unit** will greatly facilitate the work of the department which last year made nearly 47,000 X-ray studies. Like the rooms themselves, all doors in this department are lead-lined and operate on special tracks.

6—**The darkroom** where X-ray plates are developed has stainless steel equipment. The temperature of the water is thermostatically controlled.

7—Connected with the darkroom by light-proof locks for the transfer of both wet and dry plates is the **reading room** where roentgenologists, physicians and surgeons read and interpret the X-ray plates. The rooms are connected by the latest-type of electric plate dryer and by a recently designed lock for transferring plates for wet readings.

8—**Offices** for the Hospital roentgenologists are centrally located to maintain close supervision over all activities of the department.

9—This room, still under construction, has been designed for the use of **radioactive isotopes** in the treatment of cancer-forming diseases. Application for the use of isotopes has been made to the Atomic Energy Commission which manufactures them and controls their use. All of the storage, safety and treatment devices required for the use of isotopes will be provided. The room also will be used for superficial therapy employing the equipment presented to the Hospital by the Lehigh County Cancer Society.

10—New 250 kv deep therapy X-ray equipment is being installed in this heavily shielded room.

The equipment is the type most widely used for the treatment of deep-seated tumors for which deep therapy is prescribed. Dressing rooms are a part of the suite. It is still under construction.

11—X-ray plates will be filed in this room.

12—Survey chest X-ray equipment presented to the Hospital by the Lehigh County Tuberculosis and Health Society is used to give every patient a chest examination. It also is used in the examination of applicants for food handlers' permits and for chest X-rays of pupils referred from public and parochial schools.

13—This room has been reserved for the new X-ray equipment that will be used for **stomach surveys**, examinations that will be as simple and inexpensive as the 70 millimeter chest surveys.

14—An auxiliary darkroom will serve the 70 millimeter equipment and also may be used for developing other plates.

15—A comfortably furnished lounge has been provided for patients awaiting X-ray treatment, examinations or consultations.

16—Specialized units in this room include a Swedish-built X-ray for head examinations and a unit for examining the structure of the heart.

17—X-ray technicians who work under the direction of board-certified roentgenologists keep their files and records in this office.

18—A trained social worker on the Hospital staff is available for consultations with patients or their families who may have special problems.

19—Two completely automatic self-leveling **elevators** with visible station indicators serve all floors of the new building.

20—**The admitting office** has been planned to assure the patient complete privacy while providing the Hospital with the information required for its records. Here all patients except those emergency cases admitted through the ambulance entrance are interviewed briefly before being escorted to their rooms in the various Hospital buildings. A comfortable waiting room serves the admitting office.

21—The complete **medical records** that are kept on every patient are prepared here from the dictation of the attending physicians and surgeons. Dictation equipment is located in the operating pavilion and at other places through the Hospital to be readily available to receive the complete reports which are transcribed by medical secretaries and placed in confidential files.

22—Business operations of the Hospital, including the individual accounts of every patient, are



The Auditorium and Conference Rooms are Centers of the Hospital's Educational Program

centralized in the spacious **general office**. The most up-to-date accounting equipment is used to record all services for which there is a hospital charge so that those responsible for the payment of bills may have a complete statement at any time during the patient's stay. There are separate wickets for the payment of bills and for the insurance department which assists those whose hospital charges have been wholly or partially prepaid through Blue Cross or other types of insurance.

23—This room is a **lounge and cloak room** for doctors visiting patients in the Hospital.

24-25—Both the Superintendent of the Hospital and the Chief of Staff have **private offices** convenient to the main entrance and the general offices.

### GROUND FLOOR

1—The Allentown Hospital treats more than 23,000 patients in its clinics each year. This is one of the two waiting rooms for clinical patients. The other is located at the north end of the West Wing, adjacent to the other clinics.

2—The electrocardiogram room has the precision equipment used to help physicians make careful studies of the functioning of the heart and circulatory system.

3—Crafts that are designed to slowly strengthen damaged muscles will be installed in this room which will be developed as an occupational therapy center. It will be one of the out-patient clinics available to those who no longer require full-time hospital care and treatment.

4-5—The Hospital maintains a permanent confidential record of every patient and the treatment and care that was provided. To conserve space, the original records ultimately are transferred to microfilm which is filed in fireproof cabinets in this room. The other medical record room is used for the permanent filing of X-ray films.

6—Graduate nurses whose homes are remote from the Hospital and who may prefer to change into their uniforms just before beginning duty will have individual lockers in this **dressing room** and lounge.

7—**Lockers** have been provided for the storage of clothing and other personal items belonging to patients who are unable to send them home.

8—Hospital equipment and supplies will be stored in this room.

9-10-11—**The Hospital Dietician** and her six associates, all of them fully accredited for their work, have their offices adjacent to the kitchens. Here the more than 3000 meals served in the Hospital each day—many of them special diets—are planned and checked.

12—Much of the confusion associated with serving 1500 meals each day for some 650 members of the professional, nursing and general staffs will be eliminated with the opening of this new **cafeteria** for general employees. Meals, prepared in the Hospital kitchens, will be served from stainless steel steam bars and counters. The cafeteria will accommodate 75 persons at one sitting. The main floor cafeteria and dining rooms will be reserved



**A GREATER ALLENTOWN HOSPITAL FOR A  
GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY**

