HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK HOSPITAL
MISSOULA, MONTANA

SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE
FOUNDATION # 44

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**Other sisters:** The S.P. annalists over the years who so faithfully recorded the day to day events of this mission; and Sr. Margaret LaPorte, for her concise history of the institutions of St. Ignatius Province.

**Special thanks:** to Sr. Beatrice Damphousse, my friend and supporter, who prepared me for my current position and continues to support and encourage me in so many ways. She produced an abstract of the early French chronicles of SPH and also wrote a brief history of the institution in 1971, in preparation for the centenary.

**Special assistance:** Marianne Farr, Medical Librarian, St. Patrick Hospital Center for Health Information, for help on site in obtaining photos and information.

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Sr. Mary of the Infant Jesus (center.) French-Canadian sisters who were the first white women from the West to cross the Rocky Mountains from Vancouver, Wash. and Walla Walla, Wash., and arrived in St. Ignatius, Mont. in 1864 and began the ministry of the Sisters of Providence in this area (St. Ignatius Province).
INTRODUCTION

A broken arm is not always a total misfortune! “Good news, bad news; who knows?” In the case of St. Patrick Hospital, the broken arm of a Sister of Providence was one of the causes of its foundation!

The purpose of this history is twofold: to gather into one volume the information available which tells the story of the institution from the religious community's perspective and to provide a concise history in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the hospital (April 1998).

Three sisters, and the Superior General of the Sisters of Providence (at that time), began this 44th. foundation of the congregation of the Sisters of Providence. Two S.P.'s remain: Sisters Catherine Palmatier and Elsie Kelly.

Over the years, 184 Sisters of Providence who were members of St. Ignatius Province have served at this hospital. An additional 11 served, but later left the order. The names of those who served, as well as a list of the superiors of the hospital, are included in the appendices.

I have incorporated excerpts from original documents when possible, to give the “flavor of the times,” and to give the reader a more accurate picture of the feelings and impressions of the sisters and others throughout the history of this institution.

The history of our sisters and their co-workers at St. Patrick is inspiring. I have tried to portray and to share this information and to provide all those connected with St. Patrick with the legacy of the sisters. No ministry was foreign to these sisters who served here. May they pray for us to be faithful in whatever we are called to do!

St. Patrick continues to be sponsored by the Sisters of Providence, St. Ignatius Province, through Providence Services—the parent corporation for the hospitals and mission related organizations of the Sisters of Providence in eastern Washington and western Montana.

- Sr. Helen Mason, S.P.
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND EARLY JESUITS IN MONTANA

Until 1860, there was no white population in what is now the State of Montana. The only priests in the region were four or five Jesuits. The influx of whites began in 1862, when the first discoveries of gold were made at Gold Creek in Granite County, and Grasshopper Creek near Bannock—Beaverhead County.

Fr. Anthony Ravalli, S.J., was quick to volunteer when he heard God calling, [through Fr. Peter John DeSmet, S.J., in 1843, who was visiting Rome to plead for men to become missionaries to the Indians in the Rocky Mountains of North America]. Fr. De Smet had passed through the Missoula region in 1841.

Fr. Ravalli went first to the Kalispels at Kettle Falls, Wash., in 1844. He later made architectural plans for the mission at Cataldo, Idaho. In 1850 he was assigned to supervise the completion of the construction and decoration of the interior of that mission.

In August 1863 Fr. Ravalli and Bro. William Claessens, S.J., with the aid of a few Indians, built St. Michael’s Church at Hell Gate. Its location was a spot much dreaded by Indians as a place of frequent ambush from their foes. Thus it received its name “Porte d’Enfer,” Hell’s Gate. This was the first church for whites in Montana.

Though reassigned to St. Mary’s in the Bitteroot Valley, Fr. Ravalli was stationed at Hell Gate for the ensuing three years. During that time he ministered to the Catholics of the whole area, including Frenchtown, and to a couple of families at Missoula.

Montana Territory became a state in 1889, and, in 1893, at the Third Regular Session of the Legislature, huge Missoula County was divided into two counties. To the portion lying in the Bitter Root Valley, they gave the name “Ravalli.”

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1 This church was restored in 1962. In 1873, the land ownership of the church was questioned. It became necessary to vacate that site! It was hauled eastward to a new site on St. Patrick Hospital grounds! It was soon used instead as a classroom for boys. Later it was moved again—this time to the grounds of Sacred Heart Academy.
Lawrence Benedict Palladino was born in Italy in 1837. He entered the Jesuits at age 18 and was ordained at Nice in 1863. When he learned of the development of the American republic, he volunteered for the Rocky Mountain mission. Fr. Palladino crossed the Isthmus of Panama by train and took the steamer up the Pacific Ocean to San Francisco, Calif. He then made his third year of novitiate in California.

His first assignment in Montana was at St. Ignatius Mission.

The following letters trace the establishment of St. Patrick Hospital and show the strong support it enjoyed early on.

"Missoula, Nov. 13, 1872

Rev. Father L. Palladino, SJ

Dear Father,

From my informants, I cannot find out if you, on behalf of the sisters, intend to bid on the maintenance of the County sick for the coming year. I intended to see you on this subject before you left town to convince you that it would be not only Christian duty to do so, but that it would pay you well. I assure you that all what should be in my power to help the sisters or you in your good works, I will most cheerfully do since I have decided to stay here in Missoula. My reasons are clear; like everybody else, I have a desire to place the County sick in the best hands possible, and to have likewise a good place for the private sick...

You will not need more than one or two rooms to begin with in your house;...Should the sisters be unprepared to take charge from the beginning (Feb. 15 1873) I will find a respectable person—male or female—to do so until the sisters shall be ready. Besides I will do all I can to help you. There is another point I wish to speak to you about: if you put in a bid, comply with all the points in the printed notice I send you, this County is not yet prepared to let out separate
contracts for maintenance and for medical services. As far as the latter are concerned there are Father Ravalli, Dr. Tieran and myself who would be willing to help you along. At any rate, be assured that you shall not be loser as far as medical treatment and medicine are concerned.

If none of the Fathers should be able to superintend the work on your house to make it ready on Feb. 15 next, I will willingly comply with any instructions you may give me. Now, remember that as a purely speculative business this is for you a good chance you may not have a single county patient and remember further that my friends and myself would be ready at any moment to assist you in any way desired...

Your respectful servant
(signed) Emil Henke, M.D.

*St. Ignatius Mission
Nov. 15th., 1872

Emil Henke, M.D.

Dear Sir,

I have received your very kind favor of the 1st. inst. and have also communicated its contents to the Rev. Mother Superior. I do feel much obliged to you and so does the Rev. Mother for the valuable information you have given us, as well as for the deep interest you take in our behalf.

As to our bidding on the maintenance of the County sick, for the coming year, I must decline it. The Sisters are not prepared as yet for the task, they cannot possibly make ready within the time, personally to attend and care for County patients. On no other ground the Sisters could consent to send in their bid or accept the County Hospital.

Thanking you over again for your great kindness, I beg to be

Respectfully yours,
(signed) F.L. Palladino, S.J.

"Here is the copy of the account I have received from Reverend Father Palladino (no signature)

Owed:

St. Patrick hospital, Missoula, to Rev. Fathers of St. Ignatius Mission:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1872 November</th>
<th>Purchase of land and house $1,525.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contract 10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registration 6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total for purchase $ 1,541.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1873 April      | Stove, pipe, etc. 128.75             |
|-----------------| Money loaned 20.00                   |
| May             | Money loaned 35.00                   |
|                 | 6 beds @ $9.00 54.00                 |
|                 | 4 chairs @ $2.50 10.00               |
|                 | 1 big table 5.00                     |
|                 | 1 small (unreadable) 3.00            |
|                 | Wood to build a barn 78.89           |
| June            | Money paid to workman 40.00          |
|                 | Money lent 65.50                     |
|                 | Interest due to [Mr.] Worden 61.40   |
|                 | Total $ 501.54                       |
Reverend Mother Caron,  

Reverend and dear Mother in Jesus Christ,  

I beg your indulgence for not having answered your two last letters for which I want to thank you. I have no other excuse but my own neglect; however, if this excuse is not reason enough, I beg you to forgive me.  

I like very much the interesting report you sent me on the mission of Tulalip. I regret that the circumstances here and there may be different. If they were the same, we could adopt the same line of action toward the Indians. It is to be hoped we could have a man suitable to take charge of the agency. There is no doubt things would improve much. By experience, I strongly doubt that things will improve as I doubt that a man highly qualified will ever be in charge of the agency or continue in office. It is discouraging to even think of it. I must confess, I do not see among us anyone with better thinking power who could have a better chance unless a miracle is performed, I must say. May God’s will be done.  

Last August, I was in Helena and I had to give a retreat to the sisters located there. These sisters accepted the Deer Lodge Hospital, and they will soon take charge.  

I hope that Sister Mary of the Infant Jesus and Sister Mary Victor keep you informed of the news and happenings here and in general.  

In what concerns Missoula, I would tell you that these times are excessively slow in all of Montana, but even more in Missoula. The idea of building a church in Missoula this fall was abandoned. The reason is that times will improve the next season as someone lately has discovered mines behind Frenchtown.  

In regards to the piece of land bought in Missoula for the sisters, I arranged with Sister Mary Victor to keep the small block to build the contemplated church. I thought that in our present circumstances I seek the greatest advantages for the sisters and the fathers. I tried my best to secure a piece of land for the sisters but my efforts were futile. The land offered for the church was either inadequate for the church or too far away from the sisters to go to church or we would have had to buy an addition of land necessary to build the church for a large sum of money which we do not have.  

For these reasons, I gave up building a church this fall. I concluded that the only open option I have is to stay with the arrangement I made with Sister Mary Victor. Nevertheless, my intention was and still is that the sisters still need more land than they have. They can take more without the price being increased as I saved the block I kept while thinking we would add the church...  

I am respectfully yours,  

L. Palladino, S.J.
In November 1873, Fr. Palladino was transferred to Helena, where he remained for ten years, when he was recalled to the mission and given a larger territory, including the Missoula valley. In 1887 he again went to Helena where he spent five more years before becoming the President of Gonzaga College (now University) in 1894 in Spokane, Wash.

Fr. Lawrence B. Palladino, S.J.

On Dec. 11, 1881, Fr. Joseph Menetrey, S.J., who had been living at St. Patrick Hospital, took up residence at the new St. Francis Xavier church—living in the sacristy. The first baptism in Missoula was on March 17, 1874, [the first feast day of the hospital] that of Lucinda N. Pattee.
In 1864, when four Sisters of Providence opened the doors to their first mission in Montana, the religious community, whose name at that time was Daughters of Charity, Servants of the Poor, did not yet have the territorial divisions called "provinces." The region governed was called a vicariate. Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart (Pariseau), first superior and builder of the S.P. missions of the West, was the first Mother Vicar—a position she held from 1856 to 1866. Her vicariate was the Vicariate of the Providence of the Holy Angels, whose principal house was located across the Rockies and the Cascades at Ft. Vancouver, Wash. The territory included Washington and Montana, although they did not become states until 1889. Mother Joseph is credited with founding the houses in the West, but, owing to difficulties of travel, her trips across the Rockies were few and far between.
The religious community of the Sisters of Providence was founded on March 25, 1843. On December 26, 1843, Mother Gamelin welcomed Esther Pariseau (later known as Mother Joseph) as the 13th member of the new community.

The two women worked closely together, expanding the various works of charity in Quebec. When Mother Gamelin died of cholera in 1851, Mother Joseph was her nurse and was at her side when she spoke her last words: "... humility ... simplicity ... charity ..."

In 1856, when she was 33, Mother Joseph brought the seeds of the works of charity from Montreal to the western United States. On May 1, 1980, a statue of Mother Joseph was permanently installed in National Statuary Hall, Washington, D.C. in recognition of her service as "an historic leader of national renown."

Just two years after the founding of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal, Fr. Peter John DeSmet, S.J., had founded a mission at St. Ignatius, in Montana Territory, in 1845. In 1863, he visited the Sisters of Providence at Ft. Vancouver, pleading for them to open a school for Indian girls at the mission. Mother Joseph made this request to General Administration in Montreal, and it was granted.

The sisters who came West left Montreal June 1, 1864. They traveled to Oregon by way of New York, the Isthmus of Panama, and San Francisco. They arrived at our Vancouver, Wash., mission on July 11th., traveled to Walla Walla, Wash., and had to ride horseback from Walla, [starting out on Sept. 17]. They went over Lolo Pass through the Rocky Mountains—the first white women to come to Montana by that route. After many hardships, they arrived in St. Ignatius on Oct. 17, 1864—the feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch, patron of this province—after 30 days of travel!

These sisters [Sisters Mary of the Infant Jesus (Perpetua Dufort), Mary Edward (Lucy Smith), Remi (Cornelia Landry), and Paul Miki (Mathilde Raby)] came West at the request of the Jesuits and at the wishes of Bishop Ignace
Bourget [founder of the Sisters of Providence and four other religious congregations]. The caravan consisted of Fr. Giorda, S.J., superior of all the Indian missions in the mountains, Fr. Kuppens, S.J., and Fr. Gazzoli, S.J., the four sisters and two hired men as drivers for the baggage and provisions.

A short time after they founded the mission at St. Ignatius, it was considered necessary to establish another mission in Missoula, Mont., where the people manifested a great desire to have a hospital to care for the county indigent, as well as a school for the children.

In July 1872, Mother Caron [who was 64 years of age] was urgently requested to visit St. Ignatius. [Mother Philomene, Superior General before her, had tried to visit the mission in 1866, but failed to do so due to inclement weather and other obstacles.

Mother Caron, Superior General of the Sisters of Providence at the time, and Sr. Mary Victor (Gadbois) set out on the long trip across the continent from Montreal, Canada, Sept. 25, 1872. They went by railway to Corinne, Utah, 200 miles from St. Ignatius. The remainder of the trip was made by stagecoach. They reached their destination on Oct. 10. In Missoula, a delegation of the principal citizens met the Mother General with plans for a new mission. She promised to do all in her power, then proceeded on to the mission at St. Ignatius.

Even before the letter from the General Council was received, Fr. Lawrence B. Paladino, S.J., anticipated the decision and found it opportune to obtain a piece of property from Washington J. McCormick, Sr. and wife for the sisters. With the ground purchased came a good frame building. The property was secured for church, school, and hospital purposes at a cash consideration of approximately $1,500. Residents of Missoula were asking for nurses and teachers.

The entire transaction seemed providential. After being detained for the winter at the Indian Mission as the victim of a fractured arm on Dec. 7, 1872, Mother Caron accompanied by Sr. Mary Victor (Gadbois) and Sr. Mary Edward (Smith), returned to Missoula April 19, 1873, along with Fr. Paladino. They found a fair-sized frame house absolutely empty that had at various times served as the Hall of Justice, a school, a chicken coop, etc. This the sisters took two months to clean, carrying water from the Clark Fork River, several blocks away, with an orphan girl as an aide to complete the task. During this time, they had no mass or the sacraments.

The first patients were mostly Indians. The sisters made 125 visits to homes of the sick during the first year of operation.

2 Missoula's first attorney. The property was two blocks in the west part of town, north of present Broadway.

3 Missoula was located on the famous "Mullan Road" between Ft. Benton, Montana and Walla Walla, Wash.
Sr. Mary Edward (Smith), was of Irish parentage, born in 1831. At thirty years of age she asked to join the Sisters of Providence.

She was professed only one year when she was asked to go to the Western missions. Along with Sisters Mary of the Infant Jesus (Dufort), Paul Miki (Raby) and Remi (Landry), she was one of the foundresses of the mission at St. Ignatius, Mont., in 1864--the first S.P. foundation in Montana. She was recalled to Montreal, Canada, in 1877 by her superiors.
The sisters had no money and no furniture, but neighbors brought food, built furniture, and supplied articles for domestic use. The one box they found served as a chair and as a confessional. Meals were taken kneeling. Their food was usually bread, salt pork, and tea. Up to June 1873, they had one blanket each in which they rolled themselves on the floor. Later they finally obtained some straw pallets for beds.

Sr. Mary Victor, superior, and Sr. Mary Edward, were joined by Sr. Mary Julian (Tremblay) on May 15 to begin the work of the Providence, as the institution was called. With her, Sr. Julian brought a trunk of clothing for the sisters. They were also given a stove, a few kitchen utensils, and a few dishes a gentleman had used in his travels.

Sr. Mary Julian (Tremblay) later became Superior General of the Sisters of Providence. She was born in 1853 in St. Thomas, Joliette, Canada. She was ten months old when her mother died a sudden death. Her father directed a school at St. Thomas.

Sister held many important positions in the religious congregation during her life. Her cousin, Sr. Remi Landry, founded the mission at St. Ignatius. She was born in 1853 in St. Thomas, Joliette, Canada. She was ten months old when her mother died a sudden death. Her father directed a school at St. Thomas.
Great Falls, Mont.; superior of Sacred Heart Academy, Missoula; Superior of St. Clare Hospital, Ft. Benton, Mont.; Provincial Superior (two terms); Provincial Secretary; and Superior General (1910-22). She was later renamed to the General Council in Montreal. She died in 1928.

It was especially in the hospitals that she received everyone without distinction of person. She never refused admittance to anyone too poor to pay; she allowed them to leave without even presenting them with a bill!

The clergy of Montana were well taken care of when they became ill. Sr. Mary Julian kept rooms in reserve for them whenever they needed hospital treatment.

**Sr. Mary Julian (Tremblay)**

**EARLY DAYS OF ST. PATRICK HOSPITAL**

St. Patrick was the first general hospital in Missoula County. June 18, 1873, Fr. Lawrence Paladino, S.J., paid a visit, said mass, and left the Blessed Sacrament in the little chapel. Occasionally missionaries came to say mass and administer the sacraments. The one consolation of the small community was to have their Lord in their tiny tabernacle.

In June a miner dug a ditch about a mile in length to bring water to the convent. However, animals used the ditch during the day. Thus, the sisters had to rise early to get a day’s supply of clean, uncontaminated water. Of course the ditch, suitable in summer, froze in winter!
During the summer, a Jesuit lay brother made beds, two tables, and four chairs; but the sisters felt the need of furniture and additional space if they were to care for the sick and to teach.

The Irish residents of Missoula insisted on St. Patrick as the name of the new hospital.

"On June 27, 1873, two sisters left to take up a collection in the mines of the territory; Sr. Mary Edward of the mission [Missoula], and Sr. Remi (Landry) of St. Ignatius, accompanied by an Indian. This trip was made on horseback. They returned July 26 and brought back $950 after expenses. This was divided between the two missions: $500 for the Missoula mission and $450 for St. Ignatius." (chronicles)

"August 13, [1873] the sisters received the first private patient, Mrs. M. Reeves, a Canadian metisse from Frenchtown [Montana]." The second patient was Fr. Anthony Ravalli, S.J.! (chronicles)

Fr. Ravalli was a medical doctor; one of his first acts was to build a log structure that served as a pharmacy. He was also an artist, architect, wood carver, carpenter and artisan in other crafts. He entered the hospital on Nov. 1 at the age of 64. Mrs. Reeves was 24.

The next patient, Joseph Marion, a Canadian admitted on Nov. 4, was admitted due to a gunshot wound, a testament to pioneer violence of the day.

"The hospital contract for the sick and mentally ill of Missoula County was given to the Sisters for the first time Dec. 1, 1873, but they began only on Feb. 15, 1874; that day a sick person, two orphan girls and two mentally ill persons were brought to them." (chronicles)

During the rest of 1873, the hospital received only four patients. The sick of the area preferred staying at home, but the sisters made a practice of calling upon them. The hospital brought little revenue for the first few years. The contract with county authorities was renewed annually with little variation in pay.

In May 1874, a group left Montreal for the Rocky Mountains: Sisters Monaldi and Joseph of Providence (Niquette), a tertiary sister and a deaf mute, a teacher (Miss Nash, of Chicago, Ill.) and Sr. Mary de Bonsecours (Gadbois). They arrived May 28, 1874.

The sisters were poor. In order to get funds, Sr. Mary Edward and Sr. Remi (Landry) of St. Ignatius Mission, with an Indian guide, set out on a collection tour in the mines of the territory (Cedar and Mousse Creek Mines), farms and businesses. They repeated their quest a month later in another direction. With this initial funding, they began to purchase many kinds of equipment (a far cry from the health care institution capital budget of today!).

"Even though there were never many patients in the hospital, this year [1874] was not void of good works; we often had the consolation of seeing poor Catholics, away from their religious practices for many years, return to confession, receive communion, and then learn to endure their illness with patience. This year we cared for ten private patients." (chronicles)

"Without doubt, this mission has its daily trials to bear, but, at the same time, Providence seems to watch closely over it and wants to preserve it. This Powerful Dispenser often gives us marks of its liberality. At one time when an urgent need of money was felt and one didn't know
in which direction to turn to find the required sum, a rich widow, Mrs. Rodgers, loaned us $1,100 without interest; another good Irishman also loaned $350 at 6%, which is very little considering that the ordinary interest rate for this country is from 18-36%.” (chronicles)

“Sisters Mary Victor and Joseph of Providence...the poor travelers [begging tour] finding en route no shelter but the branches of the trees; they were thus exposed to all sorts of weather. Besides they were obliged to sleep in the forest at the risk of being visited by bears which showed up from time to time. One had to be truly in need to undertake such travels. Besides the collections in the mines, the sisters also made a visit each year to the farmers who gave them flour, grain, butter, eggs—whatever they could give.” (chronicles)

“Toward the end of last summer [1874], that is at the time of harvest, a cloud of grasshoppers arrived in the region and destroyed, within a few days, most of the vegetables; since the season was already advanced, they did no harm to the grains. ...One of the missionary priests recited the prayers which the church composes for this type of plague and, counting on the power of these prayers, we are beginning again to cultivate our garden.” (chronicles)

The 1875-76 contract, with a $300 addition stipulated that the sisters cared for the mental patients since the territorial asylum had been closed and each county had to provide for its patients. Special quarters were prepared, and the care of the insane was a service of this hospital until another asylum was built in 1877. From then on the county kept the mental patients in its institution; however, St. Patrick continued to receive some private cases.

“Last autumn [1875], a poor patient suffering for a long time with dropsy was brought to us. This man had never been baptized although he believed in God. One day, when he was in great suffering, he repeated from time to time, ‘God have mercy on me.’ We profited by this occasion to speak to him about religion...In the evening, his pain increasing, he asked if there were a priest in the town; he wanted to be baptized...The nearest missionary lived 28 miles from Missoula; he was sent for immediately; the priest didn’t arrive until two days later...He was baptized Nov. 16...He died several days later.” (chronicles)

“[1876]...the building for the mentally ill—This building which measures 32 x 16 is indispensable to us. The ground floor serves as a laundry and dairy; prior to this we were obliged to do the washing in the kitchen, something which became nearly impossible. The middle floor is for the mentally ill and the men on duty; the attic serves as a storeroom and the wash is hung there in winter.” (chronicles)

A scare of possible war in 1877 made the sisters put off the annual trip to the mines, but by the end of August, they once again took up this activity. While the two sisters were away for this collection (Sisters Mary Edward and Mary Julian), the remaining two were overburdened with the care of the sick and aged.

A scarlet fever epidemic broke out, causing the sisters to spend nightly vigils for three weeks. Several times the doctors had to give the care of the sick children over to the sisters.

In 1879 there were few patients at the hospital. The annalist attributed
"Personnel and Works, July 1, 1880-81: [selected]
6 sisters; 2 Tertiary sisters; elderly 1; admissions 506; meals given 500; deaths 31; alms and cash given to the poor $775."

Rev. John Baptist Brondel, on March 7, 1884, was consecrated as the first Bishop of Helena, Mont.

Because of the growing number of patients every day, it became necessary to enlarge the hospital. A wing of 32 square feet was built in haste, and in January the sisters moved the patients, most of whom were housed in a building entirely separated from the hospital and served as a classroom. The work was progressing in spite of opposition which resulted in the temporary withdrawal of the contract for the County patients and in being taxed and later reimbursed by order of the Supreme Court. These obstacles as well as overwork did not lessen the determination nor the courage of the sisters, whose aim was the physical and spiritual welfare of the patients.

Septicemia (blood poisoning) seemed to take hold of any wound whatsoever and to make a victim out of nearly all patients with wounds. The doctors decided that it was imperative to disinfect the hospital, and, if possible, to send home those patients who were already infected. The sisters, therefore, housed the patients in the school house, and for several consecutive days, strong fumigations were carried out. Eight days later the hospital could be reoccupied. For awhile, the sisters feared this would ruin the hospital, but as soon as the patients returned, a gentleman from town came to request a room.

"Our dear Sr. Donat (Cote), sent by the community to teach music at the new Sacred Heart Academy, fell ill of small pox upon arriving, and died thirteen days after having set foot on foreign soil...This dear sister, knowing that her illness put us in an embarrassing situation in relation to our hospital and the classes, asked Sister Servant [superior] that she be separated in a tent in order to lessen what she foresaw as troubles with our Americans who were so frightened by this terrible disease. But Sister Superior did not consider this fitting and decided that all the care that the sick sister required would be lavished on her at the hospital, while keeping the illness secret.

We would have succeeded if the contagion had remained there, but about twelve days following the private burial of our dear sister, a second case of small pox broke out in a little four

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4 Tertiary sisters (Tertiary Servants of Mary) were founded June 1, 1863, by Bishop Ignace Bourget, to assist the Sisters of Providence in their ministry of charity. On Sept. 3, 1900, they became "Coadjutrix Sisters" and were fused with the Sisters of Providence because of regulations in Canon Law.
year old boy kept at the hospital with his mother. Thus everything was discovered; there were
many conferences in town on this subject, so that a health committee was formed to put the
hospital and academy in quarantine.

Sister Superior, not finding the rulings of the Mayor in good form, didn’t want to accept
them without everything being in order; otherwise the gentlemen of the committee would suffer
the consequences. So the committee had to spend another part of the next day and night to
become organized in order to be within the law. Finally the order came; we announced that the
hospital and the academy were under quarantine and that the yellow tents would be set up.
Indeed, these things gave us much grief, not for ourselves but for our works which remained
suspended for a long time. We are indebted to St. Joseph who, as always, showed himself our
father—the disease having been stopped there. Let’s hope that these different trials have been
pleasing to our Divine Spouse and that He will bear us in mind.” (chronicles)

(2 pages of Montana Corporation documents follow)
Authentic Register

of all deliberations and official acts held,

by the corporate body known as

The Sisters of Charity of the Holy Cross

in Montana Territory

and established in Missoula

County, State of Montana

June, second, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight.

This register contains

two hundred and ninety-nine pages.
Certificate of Incorporation
of the Sisters & Charity of Providence in the Territory of Montana

Know all men by these presents, that we, the undersigned, Sister Mary Louis, Sister Superior of Saint Patrick's Hospital, Missoula, Montana; Sister Mary Recreant, Sister Superior of the Academy of Missoula, Montana; Sister Infant Jesus, Superior of St. Ignatius Mission, Montana; Sister Mary Hildegard, of Missoula, Montana; and Sister Jeanne de Chantal of Saint Ignatius Mission, Montana, having been duly authorized by a resolution of said Society, unanimously adopted at a special meeting of the members of said Society called for that purpose, do come make and file this certificate of incorporation for, and in behalf of said Society, for the purpose of availing said Society of the provisions of Chapter XXIV of the Fifth Division of the Compiled Statutes of Montana Territory, and that we do declare and certify as follows, to wit:

First: That the Corporate name of this corporation is the Sisters of Charity of Providence in the Territory of Montana.

Second: That the purposes for which said corporation is formed shall be the relief of needy and suffering humanity, in the care of orphans, invalids, sick and poor, in the education of youth, and generally in the performance and accomplishment of all acts of charity and benevolence, and in order to accomplish the above named objects, to establish and maintain Hospitals and Schools.
"For quite a long time, we've needed to build a new hospital. This year, April 10, the contract was given for the tidy sum of $23,750 for a building 100 x 85 feet, three stories, etc., etc. But to find this sum we will have to put out our hands. It's been almost twelve years since the sisters went out in the streets of the town, and today, although the collection is not finished, we have $928 and a few cents. In spite of these hard times, people showed their good will and gave according to their means. We still have to go to the neighborhoods of the sawmills and we hope that the receipts will surpass our expectations. We can't complain when it comes to financial matters of this house—Divine Providence provides generously.

Statistics: personnel: sisters 5; tertiary sisters 3; patients at the hospital 343; vigils at the hospital 820; meals given 1200; elderly man 1; orphan 1; servants 3."  (chronicles)

"Move to new hospital: January 9 we took possession of our new hospital, a building of 100 x 85 feet with three floors and a basement. I assure you that we find this good after having been so crowded for such a long time. We could house only 40 patients; today, with all our comfort, we can receive from 80 to 90 patients." (chronicles)

1889 hospital

"Statistics: personnel and works: sisters 5; tertiary sisters 3; elderly man 1; orphan 1; patients at the hospital 496; vigils at the hospital 287; number of meals given 1322."  (chronicles)
"Statistics: personnel and works: sisters 6; tertiary sisters 3; 1 orphan; 1 elderly man; 454 patients; 500 meals given; 300 vigils at the hospital." (chronicles)

"The railroad company's hospital was destroyed by fire April 7. There was one of these violent winds, so common in Missoula. The fire broke out in the interior of the hospital, in less than three hours everything was in ashes. There were about 20 patients. All were saved and transported to our hospital, which, by then, was large enough to receive them. For two months the number of our patients had been quite limited, but since this fire, a good number are staying here. We hope that the [railroad] company will leave them with us all summer.

Statistics: personnel and works: sisters 5; tertiary sisters 4; 1 elderly man; 1 orphan boy; 1 orphan girl; patients at the hospital 342; vigils at the hospital 320; meals given 462." (chronicles)

Mother Gaspard (Bourque)
(1903-08; 1918-24; 1927-32 Superior)

In 1898 space for 25 more beds was provided, raising the capacity to 115 beds. At that time, St. Patrick compared favorably with the other hospitals in the West. As the state requirements increased, the sisters wanted to give the best care to the patients and kept themselves updated on new developments at the cost of hours of study at universities or inservice programs.

"Personnel and Works, July 1, 1897-98 [selected]:
8 sisters; 6 Tertiary sisters; elderly 1; orphans 2; admissions 408; deaths 18; visits to the sick in their homes 80; number of free meals given to the poor 1,340."
On Dec. 21, 1904, The Most Rev. John P. Carroll was consecrated as the second Bishop of Helena, Mont.

In the year 1906-07, the annalist noted that the hospital was functioning at the satisfaction of all concerned and especially of the doctors, who even though not all Catholic, were very devoted and loyal to them.

Sr. Angeline of Valence (Thiroux)

It was in 1906 that the need for skilled health care professionals was recognized, and St. Patrick opened a school of nursing. Two nurses, Mrs. Jessie Quist and Miss Lena Stocklin [who became Sr. Wendelin], received diplomas on June 21, 1909. The school closed in 1978, with 51 graduates, including Sr. Lina Afinidad, S.P., and over 1,200 graduates.

"Personnel and Works, July 1, 1905-1906 [selected]:

7 sisters; 4 Coadjutrix sisters; 6 nurses; 4 employees; 3 elderly; 3 orphans; admissions 747; deaths 42; meals given to the poor 1,400; alms and cash given to the poor $333.60."

(chronicles)
1912 nurse's uniform

Sr. Eugene of Tivoli (Robitaille)
As far back as 1917, the improvement of staff organization, record library, and labs—as suggested at a convention of the Association of Catholic Hospitals—became of primary importance. In 1919, the hospital administration convoked the first meeting of doctors and proceeded to the election of officers.

Shortly afterward, fire extinguishers were installed and fire drills became part of the hospital routine. In 1920, the American College of Surgeons recognized St. Patrick as a "Class A" hospital.

(May 2, 1919 clipping, The Missoulian) "Graduation exercises were held yesterday at St. Patrick’s Hospital for the five young women who have completed the three years’ course in nursing at that institution. The members of the graduating class are Vida Pearl Heath, Marie Julia Croteau, Marie Jeanette Durfee [who became Sr. Magdalene of Providence], Elizabeth Arline Morgan, and Marie Bertha Loiselle."

April 1923 marked the 50th anniversary of the pioneers’ arrival in Missoula. A building which would increase the bed capacity from 115 to 150 was urgently needed—a project estimated at $200,000. This amount could no longer be obtained from begging tours at the mines nor in soliciting through the streets of Missoula. A more modern approach was needed. With the help of friends of the hospital, a drive was initiated for the construction of a five-story annex 100’ x 40’ and other important changes in the old building. The sum of $45,000 was raised by popular subscriptions, personal donations, and other gifts. This made the long-awaited annex a reality in 1923.
1923 hospital addition

(June 11-12, 1923 clipping, The Missoulian) "Dignitaries of the Catholic Church are expected to arrive today to take part in the formal opening of the golden anniversary celebration of St. Francis Xavier Church to be held here Monday and Tuesday.

The first to arrive Friday was Mother Mary Julian and her traveling companion, Sr. Anselm, from the Providence Mother House at Montreal...

The anniversary will be opened with a meeting this evening at the Liberty Theater with Washington J. McCormick presiding.

The importance of Catholicism in these parts will be recounted by three speakers. Dean A. L. Stone, head of the department of journalism at the State University, will deliver an address on 'The Early Trails of Montana' and will tell of the pathfinders who blazed the trails.

Washington J. McCormick, recently returned from the United States congress, will tell of 'Catholic Settlers in Montana' and will treat the part the Catholics played in the building and development of this state.

Right Rev. John P. Carroll, D. D., of Helena will go over the spiritual aspect of 'The Faith in Montana for Fifty Years and More.' ...The delegation of sisters from Great Falls arrived last night and Bishop M. Lenihan of Great Falls is expected..."

(and another clipping) "Depicting the activities and progress of the Sisters of Charity of Providence since their entrance into Missoula 50 years ago, a cast of 200 students and alumni of Sacred Heart Academy staged a pageant 'Jubilate Deo' to a packed house at the Liberty Theater last night."
Sr. Exilda Souligny (coadjutrix)

(Feb. 17, 1924 clipping headlines, The Missoulian) "Over Thirty Thousand ill and injured have been cared for in it" [Capacity--150 beds; number of sisters--22; number of employees--25; nurses now in training--28; nurses graduated from training school--69; practicing physicians--17; patients cared for in 1923--2,617; obstetrical cases in 1923--180]."

The Most Rev. George J. Finnegan was consecrated as the third Bishop of Helena, Mont., on Aug. 1, 1927.

"Personnel and Works, Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1929 [selected]:

20 sisters; 1 coadjutrix sister; 41 nurses; 23 employees; 9 elderly; admissions 1685; deaths 72; free prescriptions 147; visits to the sick in their homes 32; families assisted 2; free meals given to the poor 3,452; alms given $243."
From 1931-1942 the headquarters of the Western Montana Clinic was located on the second floor of the hospital. Thus, when the Clinic acquired its own building, the hospital could use more space for expanding services. In 1946, when the new School of Nursing opened, 16 more patient beds were added.

The Most Rev. Ralph Hayes was consecrated as the fourth Bishop of Helena on Sept. 21, 1933.

Dr. Arthur R. Kintner (deceased), on one occasion, shared his reflections about the Western Montana Clinic:

"...Dr. Harry Smith, one of the two well qualified surgeons of this clinic when it was formed in 1931, was a firm believer in the clinic type of medical practice, and had visited the Mayo Clinic on several occasions...It was his desire to interest a Mayo Clinic trained internist in becoming associated with the Western Montana Clinic...He also needed someone interested in clinic organization. I was approached by Dr. Smith through a recommendation of Dr. George Brown under whom I had received a large part of my Mayo Clinic training...I decided to come for two years, then return to the midwest, probably Omaha but the idea was soon forgotten. I was very busy from the beginning and was intensely interested in promoting growth of the clinic. We adhered that what was good for the clinic should be good for the individual members and employees of the clinic.

In the early period of development, our plans for the desired type of organization was facilitated by the addition of Drs. Trenouth, Alderson and Fredrickson, all of whom had received their training at the Mayo Clinic.

I have often been asked what was Missoula like, and what was the practice of medicine like in Missoula in this earlier period. I can assure you that they were both very different than they are now. Missoula and the surrounding area had a population of about 15,000 and this did not change much until after WWII. The patient census in St. Patrick’s Hospital averaged about 15, therefore, the hospital was anxious to lease office space to the clinic. Both hospital and clinic were benefited by this arrangement. The physician population in Missoula was 19...The clinic laboratory work was all done by the hospital which required the services of two technicians, one
part time, and a dishwasher...

The patient's history was very brief before 1932. In fact, they were all kept in two drawers of a three-drawer file cabinet...

Intravenous fluids had not been given in Missoula until we began preparing our own solutions in the hospital laboratory. Commercial solutions were not available, therefore, all institutions had to prepare their own...

When I gave the first intravenous anesthetic, Sodium Amytal, those in attendance at the time were certain the patient had died. This soon came into more general use."

Proceeds from the St. Patrick Hospital Guild through the years have helped provide modern equipment for the surgery, lab, X-ray, and other services. Since 1932, these devoted friends continue their support and thus contribute to the improvement of the institution. During 1948, the 75th. anniversary of the hospital, a total of 5,892 patients were admitted. "Financial Statement, Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1934 [selected]:

Actual value of buildings $202,167; actual value of land $24,000; horses, cows and other animals $265; vehicles, harnesses, farm and garden tools $65; cost of supplies on hand $2,500; movable furnishings $9,700; clothing, household linens and bedding $7,650; crockery, cutlery and kitchen utensils $2583.25; vases, ornaments and chapel decorations $2,100; drugs, instruments and appliances $6,975; workshops $4,000; total of accounts due $28,120."

Bishop Joseph M. Gilmore was consecrated as the fifth Bishop of Helena on Feb. 19, 1936.

(photos which follow are of the school of nursing)
"We receive the official announcement from our Most Rev. Bishop J. M. Gilmore, D. D., that the Rev. Hugh A. Faley is appointed resident chaplain of our hospital. This is quite a departure from old tradition, after having been served so well by the Jesuits up to now." (Oct. 3)

"Our new chaplain takes us his residence today in rooms 303-304 on the men's floor." (chronicles)

"The same evening [at nurses' capping], Dr. A. R. Kintner is baptized privately in our chapel, while Dr. E. S. Murphy and [his] little daughter are baptized at their parish church, at the same hour...these...converts made their first Holy Communion on Christmas night..." (chronicles)

"April 29: During the last few months, there [were] negotiations underway to acquire an orthopedic table. This has finally become an actual fact and the table has been bought at the [cost] of $1,000--of which the St. Patrick Hospital Guild paid half. It is being put into use on the above date for the first time. One more patient room had to be sacrificed to provide adequate space for the new equipment." (chronicles)

"May 2: Inspection of the hospital by an appointed representative of the Catholic Hospital Association, Sr. Conchessa of St. Paul, Minn. This is a new regulation and put into effect for the first time." (chronicles)

"May 3: Sisters Superior and Mary Magdalene go to Havre, Mont., to attend the seventh annual convention of the State Catholic Hospital Association. They return the 6th." (chronicles)
Sr. M. Tekakwitha receives her University degree from the school of Pharmacy and takes her state board examination on the 6th. and 7th. She passes with honor. For the past two years the hospital pharmacy had been attended by a non-registered druggist (Sr. Remi) under the supervision of a city pharmacist to make it legal. Now we can dispense with that help, having a pharmacist of our own.” (chronicles)

The last major improvement of the year is the installation of a new X-ray machine, with the portable unit and accessories—cost approximately $8,000. The old machine has served 25 years and has been outmoded for a good while.

Statistics from July 1938-July 1939: [selected]

Patients admitted 3,014; patients hospital days 29,159; [length of stay] 9.7 days; births 350; deaths 97; baptisms 20.

Personnel and works:

Sisters 24, coadjutrix sisters 1, R. N.’s 4, student nurses 51, employees 53, aged guests 4, meals served to the poor 6,023, patients attended free 341, prescriptions free 597, money in clothes, etc., $608.” (chronicles)

"The Missoula Military Fort has been abandoned and turned over to the Immigration department. It is now being occupied by some 813 Italian seamen, whose ships have been seized by the U.S. Government on account of War Conditions. They will be interned there, much like in a concentration camp, until the war is over. They are high class men, not taking any active part in the war but being on the Nazi's side, they were suspected they might do some mischief some way or other. The government authorities have entered into a contract with our hospital to take care of their sick who might need surgery. On landing in Missoula, one group after another,
several of them exclaimed, 'Bella Vista,' referring to our beautiful mountain scenery. The name has remained—we now call the Fort 'Bella Vista.'" (chronicles)

Sisters of Providence, hospital personnel c. 1940: (bottom row, L-R) Jane, Mary Tekakwitha, Louise Dorothy, Mary Dolores, Mary Amedee, Mary Magdalene, Patricia Marie, Leon Alphonse, Angeline de Valence, Amedee Marie, Damian of the Sacred Heart. (Top row) Reginald, Mary Lois, Victor of Alexandria, Germaine, Agnes of the Sacred Heart [superior], Gonzalve, Alberic Marie, Souligny [coadjutrix], Eugene of Tivoli, Joseph Cyril, Anna Maria, and Georgius.

Personnel and works for 1940:
Sisters 23, coadjutrix sister 1, secular aides 38, student nurses 60, chaplain 1, pathologist [M. D. part-time] 1, orderlies 2, men employees 16, aged men 3, aged woman 1, poor patients hospitalized 692, prescriptions to the poor 1,241, families assisted 16, meals 8,704, alms—cash and clothing $473, free dressings 143." (chronicles)

"Statistics from July 1940 to July 1941: [selected]
Patients admitted 3,664; outpatients 1,417; discharges 3,670; patient days 36,411; average days per patient 10; average per day 100; beds and bassinets 120; births 485; deaths 130; communions 746." (chronicles)

"Dec. 8: The papers appear this morning with a big headline telling of the Pearl Harbor disaster, from a sudden Japanese attack, the worst in our history. The same day, the United States declare war on Japan—consider the day: Sunday, the feast of the Immaculate
Conception—the patronal feast of the United States. What will be the result?” (Chronicles)

“Dec. 10: Our doctors annual dinner--27 are present. It is followed by the election of officers for the coming year and the regular meeting. Doctor Fredrickson is elected president. " (chronicles)

1942

Sr. Amedee Marie (Guay)
(superior 1958-62)

“Jan. 2: 150 soldiers of the U. S. Army arrive in Missoula to watch for sabotage, and guard the tunnels, bridges, etc., to ensure safe transportation of soldiers and war material to the coast. They are quartered at the St. Francis Xavier School gymnasium and auditorium. This task is not a pleasant one, having to be on guard four straight hours in the open in a sub-zero temperature.” (chronicles)

“Jan. 14: An Italian seaman from the prisoners camp is operated on during the night for a ruptured appendix. If only the war prisoners over in Europe and elsewhere were as well treated as they are here.” (chronicles)

Personnel and works from Jan. 1st, to Dec. 31, 1942: [selected]
“Sisters 24; coadjutrix sister 1; graduate nurses 8; employees 63; student nurses 68; aged guests 5; days of free hospitalization 7,039; meals given to the outside poor 2,645; aims in cash and clothing $991; prescriptions served to the outside poor 540.” (chronicles)

“Dec. 1: War conditions, with a shortage of labor as a consequence, create a real problem. To obviate this difficulty, we have made application to the camp officers of Italian detainees to ask if these men could not be paroled out to go to work. After the required negotiations, this was obtained. We started with three and ended with ten. These men are high class and give satisfaction.” (chronicles)

“Dec. 25: ...In the afternoon, our Rev. Chaplain, P.M. Brett, blesses the new pediatric department which is now ready for occupancy. This is another long looked for achievement.” (chronicles)
"Sept. 29: After a few months of long and tedious negotiations (as is the case with Federal projects), we finally receive the government grant of a fund of $153,817 to help build the Nurses Home. This, coupled with the hospital share, aggregates to $307,234. The telegram reads as follows: 'Have just been officially informed that Federal Works Administration has made a grant of $153,617 for Nurses Home and training facilities. Signed: Mike Mansfield, M.C.' The immediate preparations of the plans and specifications are now under way: the old barn is being taken down, and is fast disappearing." (chronicles)

By 1945, the hospital administration was faced again with the necessity of expanding its facilities and began planning the building of a new hospital.

"The first consignment of the brick for the building has finally come after waiting a month. They promised us they will send it right along from now on.

In the past few years, the space for patients in our hospital has gradually become more and more inadequate. Normally, and taxing the capacity to the limit, 3,000 patients per year would be the reasonable number; but the last two years, it has climbed up to considerably more than a thousand—in spite of the fact that the second floor, which was used by the Western Montana Clinic for ten years and the pediatric department conjointly put to the use of the patients, as added 23 more beds. We are now desperately short of accommodations to the point that there is a long waiting list for admissions among which emergencies have to be taken in. When we consider that 17 doctors have to be served, and the number to be admitted, we have an idea of the hard and delicate task for the sister in charge of that duty. This abnormal condition cannot continue very long. Our doctors and surrounding population are now encouraged by seeing our
splendid Nurses Home going up; they naturally conclude that the hospital will be enlarged to be in proportion to the number of nurses that will be educated in the future." (chronicles)

Statistics 1944-1945: [selected]

Admissions 4,399; discharges 4,403; patient days 47,258; average patients per day 130; births 518; deaths 159." (chronicles)

The laying of the cornerstone of the School of Nursing took place at 2:00 p.m. on Oct. 18, 1945. Bishop J. M. Gilmore, of Helena, Mont., officiated at the ceremony. The School of Nursing moved into its own building in 1946. The cost of the new building was $305,056. A grant of $153,000 was given by the U.S. government under the Lanham Act. The architect was Mr. H. E. Kirkemo.

(signatures of those attending follow)
Blessing of the Cornerstone of the School of Nursing of St. Patrick's Hospital, Missoula, Montana.

Witnesses:

Joseph M. Kemme, Bishop of Helena
William J. Condon, Bishop of Great Falls
Charles W. McCarth, Pastor, St. John's Baptist Parish, Missoula, Montana
Peter M. Brett, Chaplain
Sister John of Eucharist, Superior
Sister Mary Magdalen, Directress of Music
Sister Mary Herman, Superior of S.N.G.
Denis P. Wyde, St. Anthony's
J.W. Pommeren, St. Anthony's
Howard J. Luger, S.J., St. Francis
Eugene B. Scabull, S.J., St. Francis Xavier
Sister Rose Elizabeth, Superior of S.F.X.
H.E. Kulczewski, Architect, Missoula, Mont.
"Personnel and Works, Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1945 [selected]:
Sisters 27; coadjutrix sister 1; lay teachers 2; secular aides 51; nurses 83; chaplain 1; orderlies 1; employees 9; elderly 6; paying patients in the hospital (admitted) 3,962; poor patients in the hospital (admitted) 707; deaths 150; number of beds 150; number of night watches for patients 3,285; number of prescriptions served free of cost 510; meals given to the poor 909; alms in cash and clothing $613.35; number of dressings 309."

Sr. Reginald (Vaillant)

Sr. Frances of the Sacred Heart (Thibodeau)
"[Statistics] Personnel and Works from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1947:  [selected]
Sisters 28; coadjutrix sister 1; graduate nurses 34; pupil nurses 88; employees 72; aged guests
11; patients admitted 5,892; meals given to outside poor 845; needy families assisted 2; amount
of alms and clothing $397; prescriptions served to the outside poor 517."  (chronicles)

Sr. Anna Maria (Pelletier)
(administrator 1947-48)

Sr. Mary Gertrude (Sevigny)

"April 18, 1948:  A beautiful day of sunshine and mild weather marked the celebration of
the seventy-fifth anniversary of the foundation of St. Patrick Hospital.  Over 100 Sisters of Charity
of Providence were present and formed a procession to St. Francis Xavier's Church at 10:15 a.m. for the solemn Pontifical High Mass of thanksgiving to commemorate the occasion. The officers of the mass were as follows: Celebrant, Most Rev. Joseph M. Gilmore, Bishop of Helena; Deacon, Rev. Daniel B. Harrington of Ronan, Mont.; Subdeacon, Rev. Leonard Jensen of Stevensville, Mont." (chronicles)

The work of building the new hospital was slowed down by strikes, but in 1950 the chronicle noted that the work was progressing satisfactorily. A campaign was organized to raise $500,000 to furnish the new building. All sorts of difficulties marred the campaign. Along with pledges and contributions, the sisters were assailed with public humiliation and criticism from opposing parties. In spite of much anxiety, March 17, 1952, the feast of St. Patrick, marked the opening of the new building.

The new hospital had an increased bed capacity of 240 and offered many new services.

Sr. Barbara Ann Brenner

"Personnel and Works, Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1951 [selected]:

Sisters 28; secular aides 216; student nurses 65; employees 15; paying patients admitted 4,972; poor patients admitted 330; deaths 140; number of hospitalization days for Public Charity Patients 6,150; cost of prescriptions served free of charge $765.45; meals given to the poor 3,941; families assisted 5; alms in clothing $250; average daily presence, patients 125, aged guests 3; hospital days 45,795."
"On Saturday afternoon, March 16th, long before the appointed hour of 2:00 p.m., citizens of Missoula began to gather in the lobby of the main entrance to ensure for themselves a coveted place for the program of our formal opening. Speakers during the program praised the building, paid tribute to the sisters, to the Advisory Board, to the architect, and to the general contractor, and expressed gratitude to the residents of Missoula for helping in a campaign to pay for equipment.

In opening the program, the master of ceremonies, Mr. E. C. Mulroney, said: 'The day of days has come for the sisters. Years of prayer have been answered, and years of effort rewarded. Missoula may well be proud of this hospital. It has no superior, if an equal, in the entire Northwest part of the nation.'

Mayor Ralph Starr expressed 'deep appreciation' to the sisters and to the hospital board for 'the development and planning of this splendid, modern hospital...you have accepted your full responsibility as good citizens of this community.'

Oakley E. Coffee, representing the advisory board, called the hospital the 'keystone of Missoula medical life. It will make Missoula one of the outstanding medical centers of the Northwest.'

Dr. J. E. Minckler, president of the hospital's medical staff, said the doctors were grateful to the sisters, and paid tribute to the 'faith of the sisters in the future of Missoula.' He said, 'the new building will make it certain that Missoula will be even more important as a medical center than it is now. No hospital in the nation has more modern and up to date equipment,' he declared...

In the name of the sisters, Sister Superior (Sr. Mary Ignatius) extended 'sincere thanks to all for your expression of loyalty, cooperation, encouragement and consideration of this occasion. You have rendered this day memorable.' In recalling the founding of the hospital in 1873, she said, 'Then, as now, the paramount thought in the minds of all was to alleviate pain, suffering and sorrow. From this original purpose there has never been any deviation. There never shall be.'

The program opened with three songs by the Missoula Mendelssohn Club, under the direction of Lloyd Oakland. Organ music, played by Sr. Mildred Dolores, and violin music, played by Mrs. H. M. Blegen, Jr., and accompanied by Mrs. E. L. Marvin, was heard over the hospital loudspeaker system during the afternoon and evening. Tea was served in the cafeteria in the second floor. Soft drinks were served through the courtesy of R. G. Small.

It was estimated that between 14,000 and 15,000 people visited the hospital during the two days of open house." (chronicles)

"March 17: A St. Patrick's day never to be forgotten, for on this day patients were moved from the old building to the new St. Patrick's. To begin the day, Holy Mass was celebrated in our chapel by Rev. P. M. Brett, chaplain, in honor of Ireland's patron...

The sisters who supervised the tremendous task of moving and making the necessary adjustments to new surroundings could well receive the palm of victory and success for their untiring devotedness, patience, and kindness during the long, hard day. They were valiant daughters of a Providence that did provide for their needs in the completion of their new building." (chronicles)
"Oct. 6: A helicopter lands on McCormick St., at the west end of the hospital at 8:00 this morning, bringing a fire fighter for medical treatment. This conveyance arrived about 12 hours faster than any other of less modern means...Officials of the Flying Company [Johnson Flying Service] said it was probably the first time in local history that an airplane had literally brought a patient to the door of a hospital. The fire camp where the patient was working is about 13 miles from the nearest road, and Forest Service officials said it would have taken a 6-8 man stretcher crew eight hours to pack the victim down the trail to the road. A two hour ride down the Blackfoot Valley's dirt roads would have followed. The trip from the fire camp to the hospital door took only 55 minutes. Police were alerted to halt traffic on Broadway and McCormick Streets as soon as the helicopter was sighted...The patient survived and was dismissed 12 days later." (chronicles)

Notations follow on Oct. 10 and 12, listing a total of three helicopter landings that week!

"Personnel and Works from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1952: [selected]

Number of sisters 25; number of graduate nurses 53; number of student nurses 72; number of employees 217; number of patients admitted in hospital during the year 6,336; number of patients in clinic, outpatient or emergency 2,703; number of days of free hospitalization 302; number of
employees 217; number of patients admitted in hospital during the year 6,336; number of patients in clinic, outpatient or emergency 2,703; number of days of free hospitalization 302; number of meals given to the outside poor 4,975; alms in cash and clothing given to the poor $435." (chronicles)

1955-56


Number of sisters 23; total number of employees 406; number of patients admitted 6,708; number of days of hospitalization 48,248; number of patients in emergency department 3,427." (chronicles)

"1956: The Certificate of Accreditation of St. Patrick Hospital signed by the president and executive director of the Joint Commission on Accreditation was received today. For the last two years the hospital had a provisional status. The successful survey by Dr. J. Nordlander, Delegate of the Joint Commission, brought the final result of permanent accreditation. We are grateful to our patron, St. Joseph, for this favor." (chronicles)

With the increased space, the hospital could offer more services. In 1958, through the cooperation of the University of Montana, hemodialysis [Montana's first hemodialysis unit] brought relief to patients suffering from kidney diseases; the Blegen-Honeycutt Memorial Foundation received its charter in 1962 and provided a tumor registry which helps to fight cancer; the School of Radiologic Technology began training technologists in 1957 and graduated its first students in 1959.

1957-59

"Personnel and Works from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1961: [selected]

Sisters 19; total beds 185; patients admitted 6,512; hospitalization days 46,230; percent occupied beds 68.6%; bassinets 30; aged guests 17; total employees 294; RN's 71; LPN's 14; lay students in School of Nursing 96; free meals given to the poor 18,000; alms in cash and clothing given to outside poor $700." (chronicles)

"Jan. 31, 1962: A humble newspaper made its appearance in the hospital at the end of this month and is to appear monthly. It is just a double sheet publication, relating events of the hospital life and intended to bring closer to one another those interested in this institution...Sr. Geraldine Beelaert won [contest for naming the publication] with her choice of Contact." (chronicles)

"June 10, 1962: On this Pentecost Sunday, mass was to begin at 5:45 a.m...so that there would be more time for greater pomp and solemnity...5:40 a.m...Sr. Amedee Marie, superior, was
wanted...the night operator said very calmly: ‘Sr. Superior, we have a disaster; the North Coast Limited train of the Northern Pacific Railway derailed, near Evaro, and injured passengers are coming in fast.’ Sister Superior told Mrs. [Gertrude] Koester to inform the Team for the Disaster Plan, Mr. Thomas Rodgers, Personnel Director, and Mrs. Edna Lathrop, Central Supply Supervisor. They in turn would call the other members...

“The wreck had occurred at about 15 miles west of Missoula. The train was composed of 21 units headed by four diesel engines. It carried 338 passengers. [When the patients arrived] not a complaint was heard, not a sound, except the subdued appeal of a few little children...Sirens screamed intermittently for three hours. Most injuries consisted of fractured legs, arms or ribs, dislocations, severe lacerations, concussions and bruises...It was said that 282 travelers had been injured. We examined 212 here [the Northern Pacific and Community Hospitals took the others], treated 161 and hospitalized 41. The whole performance went on as smoothly as could ever go. An information center had been set up in the School of Nursing to answer constant inquiries from relatives and friends, who marveled at the exact and complete accounts furnished them. The reason was that the patients' condition had been card-indexed as each one had been processed and classified.” (chronicles)

On Aug. 30, 1962, the Most Rev. Raymond Hunthausen was consecrated as the sixth Bishop of Helena, Mont.

1963 Sr. Lily May Emert (Rose Theresa) and Joe Lesar, Pharmacist
From 1960-62, Sr. Xavier (Ethel Richardson) was Director of the School of Nursing. She was appointed administrator in 1962 and served in this capacity until 1964, when she was named administrator of St. Mary Hospital in Walla, Wash.

Sr. Ethel's reflections include that of a strong advisory board. The medical staff was difficult to work with, but cooperative.

She felt that the school of nursing was little known by the people of Missoula—it's image wasn't strong. There wasn't much communication about it. There was not a strong alumni group there like many of our other hospitals enjoy.
Dec. 3, 1963 Hospital Lay Advisory Board. (Back row, L-R:) Rev. Lawrence Gruman; Jack H. Ray; Col. T.C. Davis; Lammont Du Pont, Ill; Rev. B. Whitman Dennison; Robert Jones; Larry Topel; R.E. Sheridan. (Front: Edward T. Dussault; Sr. Geraldine (Beelaert); Mrs. E.C. Mulroney; Sr. Xavler Richardson; and Harry McCann.

Sr. Yves of Providence (Lalonde) was administrator from 1964-66. In her recollections of those years at the hospital, she mentioned difficulty with one of the physicians, who was abusive to some of the staff and who was later dismissed and left Missoula.

Sr. Yves of Providence (Lalonde)
Administrator 1964-66
April 1964 Sr. Marion Larrowe in medical records storage


In 1964, the Governing Board was comprised of Sisters Barbara Clare
Another "addition" to the hospital came in 1964: a four-sheet monthly paper entitled, "The Contact." Mr. B. Joe Younker, Personnel Director, is the editor. The first issue was in January.

A new emblem was designed for the hospital by Sr. Mary Trinitas Morin, S.P., of the College of Great Falls. Centering the design is the cross. The river is suggested by the flowing lines at the base of the cross. In the background rises the sun between Mounts Jumbo and Sentinel, with two trees symbolizing our forested hills. At the base of the cross, to the right, the lamp of learning signifies that a school is an integral part of this institution. [Sacred Heart Academy and St. Patrick originated at the same time in Missoula.] The shamrock well represents St. Patrick! The encompassing circle is formed by the serpent which stands for the healing arts (medical profession).

"June 30, 1964 Personnel and Works [selected statistics]:
Sisters 16; total beds 210; patients admitted 7,249; percentage of occupation 60.4%; newborn 753; outpatients/emergency department 5,806; aged guests 17." (chronicles)

"Sept. 10-11, 1965: The Third Annual Symposium on Malignant Disease was held in the Nurses Auditorium at St. Patrick School of Nursing. The Symposium is sponsored by the Blegen-Honeycutt Memorial Tumor Foundation. The chairman of this year's program was Bernard J. McLaverty, M.D., pathologist at St. Patrick Hospital." (chronicles)

"Sept. 26, 1965: The last two sisters moved from the 1889 building to the convent on the fifth floor. Sr. Yves of Providence [Lalonde], superior, and Sr. Mary John [Collins], assistant superior, moved to the annex this morning. Now all of the sisters are on the fifth floor or in the School of Nursing." (chronicles)

"Personnel and Works Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1965: [selected]
Sisters 16; patients admitted 8,103; percentage of occupation 66.7%; newborn 664; outpatients/emergency department 9,982; aged guests 17; total employees 375; RN's 85; LPN's 31; patients visited at home 71; visits to the poor at home 59; free meals given to the poor 14,640; alms in cash and clothing given to outside poor $779."

In 1965, Sr. Yves of Providence (Lalonde), then administrator, foresaw the need of updating facilities and existing services, and plans evolved for remodeling the X-ray department, including a new X-ray machine and the necessary accessories, at the cost of $60,000. The Emergency Room was also enlarged and improved. At this time a temporary four-bed Intensive Care Unit was set up and was completed by 1968, bringing the number of beds to 13--nine of which were used for medical or surgical patients and four reserved for intensive coronary care.

As the hospital developed and the number of departments increased, administrative work multiplied as well, while the number of sisters staffing S.P. hospitals became less. Lay people were appointed to various staff positions, thus making it possible for sisters to be directly involved with the sick and their families. In 1966, Peter J. Wanderer became St. Patrick's first lay assistant.
administrator. The following year, Arthur V. Crandall took office as administrator, and Sr. Rose of Providence (Bernadine Ginder) became assistant administrator.

"Jan. 1, 1966: Room numbers were changed to correspond on all floors; new charges went into effect. The task was tremendous...The task was completed with no errors thanks to our splendid nursing staff." (chronicles)

"Jan. 2, 1966: The hospital administration has urged all hospital employees and their relatives who are eligible for Social Security benefits and Medicare Medical Insurance to apply for this coverage before the close of enrollment on March 31st." (chronicles)

c. 1966, diet kitchen and Sr. Vincenza Dufresne
1966, Sr. Sedonia Doyon, Admissions Office

Sr. Therese Leonie Beaupre
"July 1, 1966: The new chapel has been completed on the second floor area which was formerly a six-bed ward, solarium, and night supervisor's office. The new altar is constructed of pounded reddish wood; the tabernacle in blue enamel is attached to the wall directly behind the altar and the candle holders are of heavy bluish ceramic material. Gifts received for the new chapel were a gold dish and a spoon from Fr. Thomas Conran, chaplain, and Fr. Robert Beaulieu of Butte, Montana. Mrs. LaVonne Evans gave a ciborium in memory of her family. The first mass in the chapel was offered in thanksgiving and appropriately on the Feast of the Precious Blood." (chronicles)

"July 1, 1966: Only two Medicare patients were admitted on the first day that this program became effective." (chronicles)

"July 20, 1966: The eye bank established by the Blegen-Honeycutt Memorial Tumor Foundation in St. Patrick Hospital will be ready July 25 and will serve Montana, Northern Idaho, and Eastern Washington." (chronicles)

"July 21, 1966: At a meeting of department heads and supervisors today, Sr. Mary Bede,
administrator, announced that a fund has been established for the purpose of providing a retirement income plan for the employees of St. Patrick Hospital. The plan is scheduled to do into effect on January 1967 and the contributions were started with the June 15 payroll. This plan is paid entirely by the Sisters of Charity of Providence and no employee contributions will be asked. Initial participation will be automatic for this and employees who have completed 15 years of full-time service prior to their normal retirement date will benefit." (chronicles)

In 1967 the first Service Awards Banquet for employees was held.

 Sr. Celeste Cormier (Louise Helen)

"June 15, 1967: Mr. Arthur V. Crandall took office as administrator...this morning. Mr. Crandall is a graduate of Regis College in Denver, Colo. with a bachelor degree in Business Administration, and also of Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., with a master degree in Hospital Administration. He has held positions of assistant administrator and that of administrator in several hospitals and more recently has been associate administrator in St. Joseph Hospital in Houston, Texas." (chronicles)

"June 16, 1967: Sr. Alberic Marie [Paquette] was named acting assistant superior by the Provincial Council. Prior to this nomination, the sisters, for the first time, were given the opportunity to vote for the sister of their choice for this office." (chronicles)

"July 6, 1967: The members of the Provincial Council form the governing board for St. Patrick Hospital. Mother Charlotte Marie, Provincial Superior, Sr. Mary Bede, councilor, and Sr. Loretta Marie, Provincial Treasurer, met with Mr. Arthur V. Crandall, administrator, Sr. Rose of Providence, assistant administrator, and Mr. Peter Wanderer, assistant administrator, for a board meeting. These meetings will be held monthly or as often as needed..." (chronicles)

"Aug. 22, 1967: The School of Radiologic Technology presented diplomas to five
students with Dr. Eugene Drouillard presiding over the ceremony. Dr. E. K. George was the speaker." (chronicles)

1967 Sr. Alberic Marie Paquette  
(administrator 1967-69)

During 1968, the hospital received a one-year federal grant of $39,283 to serve as a pilot Coronary Care Training Center for nurses from Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and parts of Nevada. This grant was part of a grand total of $203,913 from the U.S. Public Health Service for a three-year program to be administered by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

This same year, the hospital was again listed by the Montana State Board of Health as a hospital where they had more opportunities to develop a good background in the sciences and could earn college credits by attending classes there. This arrangement proved very beneficial to the students.

Early in 1968 the decision was made to develop a long range master plan for development, modernization, and construction for the future St. Patrick Hospital. In March a Long-Range Planning Committee was formed, composed of the Advisory Board, Provincial Council, Medical Staff and Administration.

Art Crandall, Administrator, and Mrs. Beverly Van Canagan, Chairperson
of the Western Montana Regional Mental Health Board, signed a contract in June 1969 in affiliation with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Public Health Service, National Institute for Mental Health in order to obtain a staffing grant for a comprehensive Mental Health Center. St. Patrick's has thereby agreed to provide 24-hour nursing service to patients requiring inpatient and outpatient emergency care with a designated number of beds set aside for these patients.

The Advisory Board (later Governing Board became responsible), together with the hospital administration, make long-range plans for the hospital, which include the proposed extension of physical facilities, the future of the school and its growth, community health service, extended care and facilities, and the development of a medical center complex for Missoula and the immediate area.
March 1968: Sr. Louisa Hageman, Ron Moore, Adelaide Rosich, and Mary Fox

"May 16, 1968: An anonymous bequest of $15,000 to the Blegen-Honeycutt Memorial Foundation...resulted in obtaining a photocoagulator to be used at St. Patrick Hospital for eye surgeries...St. Patrick Hospital, the only hospital in Montana utilizing this unit, is providing space, facilities and personnel for its operation." (chronicles)

"Oct. 31, 1968: Since plans are being made to close the geriatric unit located on 2 East, Mr. Arthur V. Crandall, administrator, is notifying relatives of the eight guests living there...The department will close officially on Dec. 31, 1969." (chronicles)
1969 meeting in Issaquah, Wash., L-R: Peter Wanderer (first lay assistant administrator), Sr. Bernadine Ginder (Rose of Providence), Pat Draper (accountant), and Art Crandall (administrator).

Dr. E. J. Drouillard, radiology, 1969
The St. Patrick Hospital and Health Foundation, a non-profit corporation, became incorporated under the laws of the State of Montana Oct. 10, 1969. The purpose of the Foundation is to obtain the means by which modern advances in medicine and hospital care can be made for the benefit of the people of Montana and surrounding areas. Original incorporators of the Foundation were: Edward T. Dussault, Harry McCann, J. J. Ottman, Robert E. Sheridan, Robert E. Sullivan, Sr. Rose of Providence (Ginder), and A. V. Crandall, administrator. The first organizational meeting was held Oct. 28.


Sisters 13; resident chaplain 1; full-time employees 421; part-time employees 132; 240 beds; patients admitted 9,388; percentage of occupancy 68.1%; newborn 746; outpatients 5,580; emergency patients 11,961; students in school of nursing 74." (chronicles)

Sr. Germaine Charlebois (Julian of Egypt)
(administrator 1970)

In 1970, speech, occupational and respiratory therapy services were established.

"June 13, 1970: The annual National Radiologic Convention was held in Miami, Flo., this
week. Both Dr. E. J. P. Drouillard, Chief of Radiology...and Sr. Alberic Marie, R. T., attended the
meeting. Dr. Drouillard was appointed to a four year term as trustee of the American Registry of
Radiologic Technologists, representing the American College of Radiology." (chronicles)

"June 13, 1970: As the science of health and patient care advances, so must the science
of administration and management if hospitals are to do their job of providing the best possible
service to patients while at the same time sparing those patients any unnecessary cost. SPH has
taken two steps in the direction of further improving its efficiency in the administrative area by 1)
ordering an IBM System 3 Data Processing Unit, and 2) employing a qualified Data Processing
Manager, Mr. Wm. L. Foshag." (chronicles)

"June 30, 1970: Mr. Joe Lesar, Pharmacist, was elected President of the Montana State
Pharmaceutical Association earlier this month at the annual meeting of the organization. Joe
Lesar is the first hospital pharmacist in the state to hold the office." (chronicles)

"Oct. 1, 1970: SPH routinely cooperates with the University of Montana in providing a
laboratory setting for courses in pharmacy and in physical therapy. However, cooperation with
the University of Nebraska Medical School is a first at SPH." (chronicles)

"Oct. 7, 1970: Four members of the Management Council of SPH are attending a three-
day Management Seminar by Louis A. Allen [a 25-week course]. It is a continuation of the
program began last year and sponsored by the Provincial Council of the Sisters of
Providence...for the management personnel who are employed in institutions governed by the
Province. It is conducted at Mt. St. Joseph, Spokane, Wash." (chronicles)


Sisters 10; resident chaplain 1; full-time employees 389; FTE employees 478; 252 beds; patients
admitted 9,297; number of patient days 54,122; percentage of occupancy 58.8%; bassinets 20;
newborn 740; outpatients 6,051; emergency patients 11,627; students in RN School of Nursing
program 89; radiology students 11." (chronicles)
c. 1971, Srs. Isidaria Avaricio (Pharmacy) and Fidela Adriano (staff nurse, recovery room)

"Oct. 1, 1971: SPH and Health Foundation has leased a building owned by the Foundation to the 'Our House' organization, a group affiliated with the Community Alcoholism and Rehabilitation Association of Montana. The two-story house is located at 650 W. Pine and will be used by male alcoholics who have stopped drinking and need a place to live while they are being rehabilitated and trying to find work." (chronicles)

"Oct. 8, 1971: SPH Dietary Department prepares hot, balanced meals for 125 children in the Head Start Program. The cost of the raw food is reimbursed the hospital by the program. In an effort to help the needy, the hospital donates the labor of the cooks and the facilities for preparing the meals." (chronicles)

"Feb. 7, 1972: The opening of the Psychiatric Unit for patient care brings Missoula another step further to being the leading comprehensive health care center in Western Montana...In place of the traditional institutional look, we find a warm and comfortable decor, similar to that of a new resort motel. The unit is wall to wall carpeted; attractive drapes have replaced the bars usually found in such areas; colorful furniture and a color TV set provide distraction, relaxation and recreation. One room is used as a Recreational Therapy Room. It contains a pool table, ping pong game, and other recreational devices...The patients have the freedom to roam around at will and dress in their own street clothes...It will accommodate three levels of mentally ill patients: inpatients, outpatients and partial hospitalization." (chronicles)

"Aug. 23, 1972: The Governing Board of SPH has approved the recommendation of the practicing obstetricians on the medical staff that fathers be allowed in the delivery room. The final decision will be left to the attending physician provided that the husband and wife agree to abide by the policy of the hospital and the requests of the physician." [Aug. 31, Mr. James Devitt was the first father to take advantage of this new policy.] (chronicles)
Sr. Anna Marie Koval’s first assignment at St. Patrick in June 1964 was as pediatric supervisor and supervisor of a small geriatric unit of ambulatory residents, as well as patient visitor to the patients on the medical floor. In 1970, the geriatric unit closed.

Sister attended the school of nursing at St. Patrick from 1946-49. She was inspired by many of the sisters and made a decision to enter the order.

Sr. Anna Marie Koval

CENTENNIAL MASS 1973

A Liturgy of Thanksgiving was celebrated at St. Anthony Church, Missoula, on May 10, recognizing 100 years of service at St. Patrick. Bishop Raymond G. Hunthausen, Bishop of Helena, was the principal celebrant. Concelebrants were: Fathers John Hunthausen, Frank Matule, Thomas Conran, Patrick Kenny, SJ, and Robert Noonan. Fr. Emmett Kelly was master of ceremonies. Music was provided by the College of Great Falls Concert Choir and the St. Cecilia Choir of Sacred Heart Academy.

Special guests were: Sr. Cecile Fournier, Superior General; Sr. Alice Hurtubise, Asst. General; and Ethel Richardson, Provincial Superior.

"Nov. 13, 1973: At the Governing Board meeting in Spokane, Wash., Mr. A. V. Crandall, SPH administrator, reported the following in the Budget Message:...Our total active and courtesy medical staff consists of 109 physicians...We presently have 17 dentists on staff plus an additional 25 who serve on our emergency room call schedule."
During 1973 the patient rooms on 3 West and 4 West were remodeled; new ceiling and lighting in Food Service were installed as well as air conditioning in Medical Records, Business Office, Nursing Service and Personnel; two new burners on boilers were installed; the laundry acquired a washer; a room was remodeled in Radiology for new equipment; and shelving was installed in the new Purchasing storage area.

SPH and Health Foundation was responsible for conducting the Centennial Community Fund Drive in support of commitments to remodel and expand services during 1973-75. To date we have received a total of $298,367 of which $186,000 will be available to pay for surgery remodelling and completion of other projects begun in 1973.” (chronicles)


Sisters 9; resident chaplain 1; FTE employees 447; full-time employees 374; 217 beds; patients admitted 8,065; percentage of occupancy 59%; newborn 421; outpatients 5,919; emergency patients 11,536; School of Nursing RN students 130; radiology tech students 8.”

In 1974, a new clinical laboratory and a cardiovascular special procedures lab were opened.

The O.B. department closed May 16, 1974. It was with great reluctance that the sisters came to the decision to close the OB Unit.

"Jan. 2, 1974: The Diabetes Education Program has been functioning successfully for one full year now and six comprehensive courses and three evening courses have been held. The total number of participants reached 126 with 84 diabetics, 37 family members, four professionals with diabetes and six without. Of the 84 attending diabetics, 19 were under 21 years of age; 25 in the 22-54 age bracket, and 40 were over 55...Sandra Greene, RN, M.N., Coordinator of the Program, is the national President-Elect of the American Association of Diabetes Educators and will be on the Board of Directors of the Montana Diabetes Association.” (chronicles)

"Jan. 9, 1974: ...Col. T. C. Davis, [Director of the SPH and Health Foundation] summarized the efforts of the Centennial Fund Drive’s leadership and its results. He reported that 85% of the employees pledged $23,500; advanced gifts and major firms to date total $309,346; support from the doctors amounts to $40,562 or 13% of the amount raised. Col. Davis said he was pleased when the drive crossed the $300,000 mark, as it confirmed his estimate of what could be raised. He commented that 1973 was a year in which a number of negative factors dominated, such as Watergate, inflation, a 20% decline in common stock and finally the energy crisis. Thanks and appreciation were extended to the drive leaders: G. A. Diettert, M. D., Sherman Wertz, Mrs. Betty Deschamps, Robert Runke, and Mrs. Gwen Beers...” (chronicles)

Physicians, for the first time, became members of the Governing Board in 1974. They were: Drs. W. J. McDonald, H. A. Braun, J. E. Gouaux, president of the medical staff (ex officio). These physicians will act in the capacity of community representatives rather than solely as physician members. Orientation for the new members was provided by Sr. Eileen Croghan, chairperson of the Board.

"Feb. 6, 1974: A project started over two years ago...becomes a reality today. The Federal Communications Commission has granted SPH a license to operate a radio system
linking the hospital with ambulances. This is one of the first steps in the Missoula Emergency Services for Health (MESH) plan to improve emergency medical care in Missoula County. The ambulance-emergency rooms radios were bought with $14,000 in National Highway Safety Act money. Each ambulance will carry equipment which will allow both the driver and the attendant to talk directly to the hospital...

The ambulance driver also can telephone the hospital directly with a special unit installed by Mountain Bell. With this system, the hospital will handle only the calls that are meant for it.*

"April 10, 1974: ...the clinical laboratory has become a reality. It is twice the size of the present lab, occupying 4,400 square feet. There is 2,200 square feet of storage space in the basement of the new structure which will supplement present hospital storage areas. The location between the 1923 Annex and the North Wing is of easy access to outpatients as well as to lab personnel. The former lab will be used as a special procedures laboratory, such as cardiac catheterization, as soon as it is remodeled. The projects have been partially financed through the Centennial Fund Drive."


Sisters 8; resident chaplain 1; full-time employees 463; FTE employees 475; 217 beds; patients admitted 8,790; patient days 49,241; percentage of occupancy 62.2%; newborn 345; outpatients 6,729; emergency patients 13,327; School of Nursing RN students 146; Radiologic Tech students 9." (chronicles)
"July 7, 1975: Sr. M. Michelle Holland, Provincial Superior, announced the appointment of Sr. Simonne Begin as SPH Administrator, effective July 15...Sister is well acquainted with SPH having graduated from St. Patrick School of Nursing in 1950 and serving as Operating Room and Recovery Room supervisor. She was also supervisor of medical, surgical, and orthopedic nursing areas. [Sr. Simonne continued her work as Administrator of Holy Family Hospital, St. Ignatius, while serving at St. Patrick.]

Supervisor-instructor in pediatric nursery was one of her former responsibilities as well...[she] received a Bachelor Degree in Nursing from the College of Great Falls, has done graduate work in hospital administration at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo., and served as administrator of Providence Hospital in Wallace, Idaho." (chronicles)

"July 11, 1975: SPH has received formal approval to perform open-heart surgery from the State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences." (chronicles)

Sr. Beatrice Damphousse's reflections about St. Patrick include that "patients are cared for physically and spiritually. She also notes that St. Patrick is a powerful teacher: a) willingness to lose money rather than compromise moral convictions, i.e. refusing abortions; b) public knowledge of St. Patrick's stand—employees and physicians made aware of hospital's stand on abortion; c) opportunities offered employees and physicians for educational growth, from housekeeper to nursing supervisor, for example."
c. 1976, Sr. Beatrice Damphousse (John Andrew)

"April 28, 1976: Srs. Simonne Begin and Barbara Ann Brenner attended the ceremonies held in Helena on the occasion of the new bishop's installation. Bishop Elden F. Curtiss, the seventh bishop of the Helena Diocese, succeeds Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen who was appointed to the Archdiocese of Seattle, Wash., in May 1975." (chronicles)

In 1977, Western Montana's first computerized tomograph scanner was installed.

"March 14, 1977: Work begins today, after years of expectation, on a $60,000 concourse underneath West Broadway. It will connect SPH with the Western Montana Clinic. The project will be terminated in approximately three months and will enable patients needing cobalt treatment to be transported safely from the hospital to the Clinic where the cobalt unit is located." (chronicles)

"Dec. 22, 1977: The project of bringing educational programs to the patients' rooms via television became a reality with the first broadcast today. It is hoped that this endeavor at health education will prove beneficial to patients and visitors." (chronicles)

"Aug. 3, 1978: The Garden City Medical Arts Buildings are now completed and ready to accommodate a maximum of 20 physicians with a varied range of specialties. Hopefully, this new service will be profitable to the hospital by increasing the number of admissions. The medical building is owned by the Garden City Medical Group, while the land is leased from SPH and Health Foundation...SPH and Health Foundation bought the entire Block 41 in 1969 in anticipation of future development." (chronicles)
St. Patrick Hospital and Health Foundation celebrated its tenth anniversary in October. Sr. Simonne Begin, executive director of the hospital and president of the foundation, made two announcements: the foundation, which had been inactive for the last five years, was being reactivated, and a full time director was being appointed: Dominic Crolla, who comes from Tucson, Ariz. He is a former award winning newspaperman and has spent the last 10 years in health field public relations. His job will be to establish on-going community relations and public information programs to better inform the people of Western Montana about St. Patrick's services.

A heliport was built and completed on May 16, 1979. Helicopters no longer had to land on the street! Landings on Broadway will occur only in life/death situations.

"June 1, 1979: Sr. Alberic Marie has set a record of employment at SPH: 45 years of continuous employment in the Radiology Department...Her anniversary was observed by a special publication in the main lobby bulletin board and a reception by her department."
(chronicles)

"July 18, 1979: Since Loyola-Sacred Heart High School closed its doors in June 1979, SPH administration, according to its long-range plan, looked forward to the demolition of the decrepit Academy in order to finalize plans for an Oncology Center and the location of the new complex.

64
Who would have foreseen the delay and anxiety caused by a group of Missoulians bent on retaining Sacred Heart Academy as a historic building? Sr. M. Michelle Holland, Provincial Superior, had met with representatives of the group and requested that a program acceptable to the owners (SP's) and financially realistic for the Missoula community be presented for review. The local media had been actively involved and the surrounding churches included the 'Save the Academy Plea' in their weekly bulletins. At the end of the agreed period, two weeks, no solution had been offered and Sr. M. Michelle Holland wrote the following letter to Mayor Bill Cregg and City Council members with copies to Bishop E. F. Curtiss of Helena, the Sisters of Providence, [Fr.] Joseph Shirey, S.J., St. Francis Xavier Parish, Fr. R. Beaulieu, St. Anthony Parish, Sr. Simonne Begin...Sr. Gilberte Villeneuve, Superior General, [and the opposition group].

[Her letter of July 17, in part, reads:]

...'Ten years after the building of the school, 1894, we had our first high school graduation. Several times in the next 75 years, the Academy almost had to close its doors because of financial difficulty. In 1948, when the 75th Jubilee was celebrated, we still had not paid for the 1900 addition, in spite of the fact that the only money the sisters kept for themselves was for their own food and clothing...The sisters, with the assistance of the boarding school children, did all of the janitorial work in the school...

As much as we also cherish the physical place where much of this service has been rendered, we cannot divert resources for ministry to the preservation of buildings. We intend to remain in health care in Missoula and also to have our sisters teaching in the combined schools. If the Sacred Heart Academy building were on land not near SPH, we would have no problem just giving the building to the city to be used as the City might wish. However, that is not the case, and the property will have to be used to renew SPH as the years go on.

...Although we empathize with the concern of those several Missoula citizens who have written us and with those whom we understand are signing a petition to have the sisters preserve the building, we realistically cannot do what they or you as a City Council by resolution have asked...(chronicles)

"March 18, 1980: In a move to discourage smoking, SPH is removing all cigarette machines from its lobbies. The rationale is that smoking is a proven health hazard and that by allowing the sale of tobacco in the hospital, we are behaving in a manner that is counter to our mission." (chronicles)

"May 12, 1980: The recommendation of the planning committee team is that SPH be replaced. A master plan that will help the hospital chart its development over the next ten years was presented to the hospital’s Governing Board. In an effort to assess its role in the community and to develop the planning document, SPH engaged a California-based hospital planning firm about a year ago. The planning has involved a thorough investigation of the hospital, its role in the community and the resources needed to meet the future health requirements of the community the hospital serves. The study began by determining where the patients came from—that is, the service area..." (chronicles)

Lawrence L. White, Jr., the current president and CEO of St. Patrick became the administrator in July 1980. He was 36 at that time and had been
assistant administrator of St. Anthony Hospital in Amarillo, Texas—similar in size to St. Patrick’s. Before that he was vice president of planning and research at Marian Medical Center of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Sioux City, Iowa. He was an administrator in the Air Force and was responsible for the management of Air Force medical facilities. He served as a captain of the Medical Service Corps and received the Bronze Star Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. Larry holds a B.A. degree in accounting from the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and a master’s degree in hospital administration from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo.

"Aug. 12, 1980: At their regular meeting the City Council members approved the vacation of Pine Street between Owen and McCormick streets. It is anticipated that this action will ease parking problems during the hospital's construction project." (chronicles)

"Aug. 15, 1980: Official notice of approval for the acquisition of a body computerized tomography scanner (CT) to replace the present head scanner, was given by the Dept. of Health and Environmental Sciences." (chronicles)

"Aug. 25, 1980: Chairman of the SPH Advisory Board, Robert Sheridan, died in SPH. A large delegation from the hospital attended the funeral at St. Francis Xavier Church. The civic community also paid respect to a man of dedication who was highly admired by his associates and friends. Mr. Sheridan was also a member of SPH Foundation Board." (chronicles)

c. 1980, (L-R, back): Sr. Ethel Richardson; Lawrence L. White, Jr., president; Sr. Mary Ignatius; Sr. Anna Maria Pelletier; and Sr. Simonne Begin (past sister administrators)
c. 1981, Sr. Eileen Croghan

Sr. Eileen Croghan became director of educational services mid August 1981. She was chairperson of the Governing Board while she was director of the Sisters of Providence health care institutions for six years. [Sr. Eileen is currently the Provincial Superior of St. Ignatius Province. She served on the Board again
from 1991-97, and as its chair in 1997."

"My first assignment to St. Patrick Hospital was April 1, 1959, as director of
St. Patrick School of Nursing. The school had an excellent reputation, but had
never applied for accreditation by the National League of Nursing. With the help
of Sr. Mary Magdalene, who came from Great Falls by bus every other weekend
to help with records and curriculum development, we had a successful survey in
the spring of 1960 and attained that coveted accreditation which permitted St.
Patrick graduate nurses to write the Interstate Nursing Licensure Examination
and become eligible for licensure in every state.

Sr. Amadee Marie was the superior/administrator. The sisters lived
in the east wing of the old hospital which had been a nursing home at one time.
Our dining room was in the hospital, and we crossed a small enclosed courtyard
to get to it from the convent. Every department was headed by a sister, though
even then they were aging.

My tenure was one short year, for in the fall of 1960, I was sent to the
Catholic University of America for a graduate degree in nursing education.

My second assignment to SPH was in the fall of 1981 when I applied and
was hired as Director of the Department of Educational Services. By this time,
the hospital was being directed by the second layperson, Mr. Lawrence White,
Jr., with Sr. Barbara Ann Brenner as one of his assistants. It was in a favorable
financial status and plans were being made to replace the hospital with a new
building. By 1984 the former school of nursing building was demolished to make
room for the new structure and building began for the new SPH."

St. Patrick began around-the-clock hospital-based helicopter ambulance
service in 1981. A lease arrangement was made between the hospital and
Mountain West Helicopters, and the service began in March. The helicopter will
serve an area with a population of 224,000 in a 100-mile radius of Missoula. The
helicopter will be located on the helipad adjacent to the Western Montana Clinic.
Three pilots will be available 24 hours a day.

The new Western Montana Regional Cancer Center opened this year.
The center, located on hospital grounds, will provide a full range of radiation
therapy services and will augment St. Pat's medical and surgical oncology
services. It is privately owned by a partnership of eight physicians and it will be
directed by David J. Rickles, M. D., radiation therapist. A Siemens Mevatron 74
medical linear accelerator, one of only four of its kind being used in the U.S.
today, will provide radiation therapy.

1982-84

In 1982, construction began on a replacement facility for 169 beds and all
diagnostic treatment services. Construction was completed in 1984.

In 1983, the alcoholism treatment center opened.
Present St. Patrick Hospital

The dedication day ceremony was held at noon on Sunday, Sept. 23, 1984, with Bishop Elden F. Curtiss, Bishop of Helena, as the main celebrant of the liturgy. Lawrence L. White, Jr., administrator, presided at the ceremonies. Speakers for the day were Sr. Bernadette Botch, Provincial Superior, The Honorable Ted Schwinden, governor, Bishop Curtiss, and Richard J. Umbdenstock, hospital consultant (now President of Providence Services). A reception followed in the cafeteria patio. Choral music was provided by the Missoula Deanery Choir. Before beginning the mass of dedication, Bishop Curtiss blessed the new chapel and cornerstone (whose contents include a coin from the Vatican, a small statue of St. Patrick, and soil from Montreal).

"July 19: The Montana Nurses Association's negotiations concluded in just four days which is the shortest negotiation period in our history. Mrs. Orma Fairbank, Vice President Nursing Services, reported that the economic issues included a 2.5% wage increase in July 1986 and a 2.5% increase in July 1987. The nurses will vote on the contract this week.
July 28: Publicity today in the local paper, the Missoulian, outlined awards received by St. Patrick Hospital. The news report follows:

St. Patrick Hospital has earned two distinctions in recent weeks—one for its efforts in energy conservation and one for its Wellness Program. The first award, announced by Gov. Ted Schwinden, comes from the Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation. Schwinden said that the St. Pat's project—the utilization of the new hospital's energy system—is being submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Energy for a 1986 national award for energy innovation."

"August 10: There is much that can be said as feelings are sorted out about the crash of Life Flight helicopter. All aboard survived the crash. Pilot Dave Buck, nurse Merry Minckler, and respiratory therapist Michelle Hellickson were hospitalized with injuries.

The following editorial, written by Steve Woodruff, was published in the Missoulian. His thoughts are our thoughts:

'...We got a disconcerting reminder of the dangers braved by the Missoula hospital's helicopter ambulance crew last week when the Life Flight chopper crashed during a night-time rescue mission in the Idaho wilderness. Miraculously, all five people on board the helicopter survived...the patient was one of three Idaho men severely burned when their plane crashed on the Gospel Hump Wilderness near Grangeville, Idaho...

We don't know for sure what went wrong. A second helicopter made it. Life Flight didn't. The Missoula helicopter crashed seconds after liftoff, tumbling 200 feet down a slope. Injured, and in need of medical help, Life Flight nurses Merry Minckler and Michelle Hellickson picked themselves out of the wreckage and continued their work." (chronicles)

"Dec. 1986: St. Patrick Hospital has set a goal of being smoke-free by January 1988, an effort meant to show the hospital is a healthy environment. In addition, the change is expected to decrease health insurance costs and maintenance expenses and increase employees' productivity. A 10-smoker membership task force headed by Earl Wruck, personnel director, and a reformed smoker, recently submitted a series of recommendations to implement the new policy. Beginning New Year's Day, 1987, smoking will be prohibited in St. Pat's. Exceptions to the smoke-free rule will be certain cafeteria and vending areas and patients' rooms." (chronicles)

"Dec. 30: Recent requests for assistance in caring for the poor have been received by St. Pat's. President Lawrence L. White, Jr., has met with the City/County Health Department, the Sisters of Providence in Missoula, Provincial Administration representatives, and Indian Health Service representatives, for the purpose of discussing how the hospital might make a contribution which would, in general, contribute to the health of Missoula community.

The decision resulted in one donation being made to the City/County Health Department with the funds earmarked as $20,000 for their Outpatient Clinic and $10,000 for the Missoula Indian Alcohol and Drug Service.

A second donation was made by St. Patrick Hospital to assist Hospice of Missoula with a contribution of $10,000. Plans are underway for Hospice to be integrated into the Mountain West Home Health program sponsored by Missoula Community Hospital and St. Pat's. This is taking place due to the financial difficulties of Hospice." (chronicles)

"March 15: It's Spirit Week at St. Patrick Hospital, observed this year from March 15-18. Spirit Week was introduced in 1982 as a time to show care and concern for fellow employees
and that St. Pat's is a great place to be, either as an employee, volunteer, patient or visitor. A committee has planned several activities for the employees during these days." (chronicles)

"March: A new $95,000 hematology machine, the Technichron H-1, is coming on line in the St. Patrick Hospital Laboratory. Medical Technologists, Mary Lawrence and Leilani Heuer, recently traveled to Tarrytown, N. Y. to learn the new system's capabilities.

The machine offers faster blood cell counts and can provide a more accurate description of blood components. This aids in the diagnosis of diseases such as leukemia, lymphocytic tumors, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS." (chronicles)

In 1987, St. Patrick acquired the physical facilities of Missoula General Hospital, a 50-bed hospital located one-half mile from the main campus. This reduced Missoula's hospitals to two. This new facility is now known as Providence Center. Plans were made to transfer all of the hospital's behavioral medicine programs—mental health, alcoholism, drug dependency, and possibly other programs to that facility. Missoula General's owner, American Healthcare Management, Inc., of Dallas, Texas, recently announced the sale of the newly built facility to St. Pat's after months of negotiations. Missoula General was established in 1882 by the Northern Pacific Railroad. It is a 50 bed facility. The sale price was $8.6 million. (tell here the current use of P.C.)

"December: St. Patrick Hospital President Lawrence L. White, Jr., and James Koch, President of the University of Montana, formally signed a letter of agreement...creating the Institute of Medicine and Humanities, to be located in Missoula, MT. The Institute is jointly sponsored by St. Patrick Hospital and the University of Montana. It shall be operated under the direction and control of an Executive Board consisting of five members and assisted by an advisory board...

It will initially serve nurses, physicians, other health professionals, and scholars in the humanities. The objectives of the Institute will be the support of applied education and research in the humanities for purposes of furthering the humanistic orientation and knowledge of medical professionals in the philosophical and ethical bases of their actions...

Beneficiaries of the Institute's program include those in health care and the humanities who seek a broadening of their professional competence and commitment. Ultimately, it is the patient who will most benefit by the ministrations of the medical professionals who appreciate the subtleties of human health which demand more than an impersonal diagnosis or treatment of disease." (chronicles)

The cooperative venture is one of the first of its kind in the nation.

1988-89

"June 3: The retirement reception for Sisters Alberic Marie Paquette and Therese Leonie Beaupre was attended by several hundred people of all ages who joined the line to shake hands with the retirees...Sister Alberic Marie worked at St. Pat's for 54 years, mostly as a supervisor in the radiology department, while Sr. Therese Leonie has been a chaplain and admissions officer for 22 years. Sr. Therese Leonie also worked as a dietician at Columbus Hospital [now Benefis Health Care] in Great Falls for nearly a quarter century." (chronicles)

Sr. Alberic Marie stepped down as head of the radiology department in 1980. In her time, she saw the development of sulfa drugs and penicillin. She's
seen X-ray technology develop to a complex computerized science. She overcame the language barrier when she was sent from Montreal to Columbus Hospital in 1929, without speaking a word of English.

"July 12: After nine months of construction, the radiology department's new facility was ready. St. Patrick Hospital's new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine arrived from General Electric's South Carolina factory...This third generation diagnostic imaging gives clear images of the brain and spinal column, which can be done without radiation, without invasive dyes, with harmless radio waves, a giant magnet, and a roomful of sophisticated computers. Both Missoula hospitals are cooperating on the project...The new service will be operational tomorrow." (chronicles)

"July: St. Patrick looks forward to its responsibilities as a partner in the Riverside Healthcare Center nursing home on East Broadway due to open this fall. The hospital's Geriatric Services Task Force has created a road map of future programs and services." (chronicles)

"April 20: This morning St. Patrick held a press conference to formally announce the alliance of 11 hospitals in the Northern Rockies Cardiac Network. President Lawrence White introduced the representatives from the participating hospitals and explained the networking concept as it applies to health care delivery in rural areas, such as Western Montana and Northern Idaho. Dr. Stan Wilson described the pathology of a myocardial infarction and the urgency of receiving treatment as soon as possible.

Participating Network hospitals are: Barrett Memorial in Dillon; Community Hospital in Anaconda; Granite County Memorial Hospital in Philipsburg; Marcus Daly Hospital in Hamilton; North Valley Hospital in Whitefish; Powell County Hospital in Deer Lodge; Ruby Valley Hospital in Sheridan; St. Joseph Hospital in Poison; Steele Memorial Hospital in Salmon, Idaho; Mineral County Hospital in Superior; and St. Pat's." (chronicles)

Sr. Elsie Kelly

72
1990

"Feb. 1990: St. Pat's and six other hospitals in the region have joined together to lease lithotripsy services from the Northern California Kidney Stone Center. A lithotripter uses sound waves to disintegrate kidney stones. For most patients lithotripsy is an outpatient procedure and replaces major surgery which often required a month of recuperation. On Feb. 7, St. Patrick Hospital welcomed the mobile lithotripter on its inaugural Montana tour. Urologists practicing at St. Pat's did eight procedures over two days...The machine, costing about $2.2 million, is too expensive for one hospital to buy so the mobile services are becoming more common." (chronicles)

"June 29, 1990: St. Patrick Hospital president Lawrence White and Missoula cardiologist, Dr. Stan Wilson, returned from a recent visit to the 650 bed Ren Ji Hospital Affiliated to Shanghai No. 2 Medical University. This was the first visit to China by representatives of St. Pat's since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two hospitals in December 1988, calling for scientific intercommunication and cooperation..."

"As guests of Ren Ji Hospital, Mr. White and Dr. Stan Wilson gave public talks and informally consulted with their Chinese colleagues. Dr. Wilson performed several cardiovascular procedures including one emergency angioplasty. Later, the two travelers were among the first Westerners to visit Tianemen Square the day it reopened on the anniversary of last year's demonstrations for democracy." (chronicles)

"July 1990: At a time when only two Sisters of Providence work day-to-day at the hospital, Sr. Elsie Kelly's role is essential. It is a bridge from the past—when the Sisters of Providence filled many positions at St. Pat's—to a more secular present—when 1,000 lay men and women work for the hospital."

"Sr. Elsie encourages the employees to see their work as more than a job, but a ministry...Sister's message is the same message Jesus brought: that God loves us just as we are. The kingdom of heaven is already within people...This summer and fall Sr. Elsie is offering four weekend mountain retreats for St. Pat's employees. The retreats are being held at a cabin near Lincoln, Mont. In her popular motivational seminars, Sister expands on her message. These weekly evening seminars called 'An Invitation to Inner Peace' attract about 50 to 100 people each week." (chronicles)

"Oct. 1990: When discussions began more than five years ago, there was no inkling that the monthly meetings would evolve into a formal partnership between the University of Montana and St. Patrick Hospital. That small, informal group of health professionals and university professors is now a much larger entity called the Institute of Medicine and Humanities."

"In April 1990, the institute brought harpist Therese Schroeder-Sheker to Missoula to present her new concept of palliative music for the dying. This fall visiting professor Andrew Jackson, Ph.D. came from the Department of Preventative and Societal Medicine at the University of Nebraska. His main areas of study are nursing, ethics, medical ethics and physician-nurse relationships." (chronicles)

"Oct. 20, 1990: ...thousands of rubber ducks floated down the Clark Fork River in the first annual Great Clark Fork Duck Race. More than 8,000 people 'adopted' ducks for $5 apiece, raising about $25,000. Another $50,000 came as a result of an anonymous gift from a person who learned about St. Pat's new adolescent mental health program from the duck race advertising." (chronicles)
"Jan. 1, 1991: St. Patrick Hospital's human resources department re-named the employee of the month award. It is now called the St. Pat's Way Award. Several years ago, the department of education asked employees to describe the kinds of things that made St. Pat's workers different. After a lot of discussion, nine separate descriptions of the kinds of things that set St. Pat's apart from the rest of the world were chosen..."

"Here are the nine ideals of St. Pat's culture:
1. Share the frontier spirit of our past. Risk growing toward a better future.
2. Think of yourself as part of a team. Cooperation is infectious.
3. Put patience, honesty and humor at the head of your list of values to practice.
4. Affirm each other's worth as persons. Listen, learn and love.
5. Treat patients and co-workers as you would like to be treated.
6. Show that you are committed to caring with confidence and compassion.
7. Walk in faith and follow your vision.
8. Acknowledge a job well done.

"March 26, 1991: The joint medical staffs of St. Patrick Hospital and Community Medical Center unanimously affirmed their support for the development of an ambulatory indigent health care plan. Proposed by the joint indigent care committee, the resolution stressed the need for a central facility to provide at least a modest level of primary care for acute and minor problems. The city and county, Missoula's hospitals, and other sources would fund the facility. Participating physicians would provide care at the facility or in their offices.

The Missoula Indigent Health Care Plan, 'Partnership for Access,' drafted by the joint indigent care committee received an enthusiastic reception from the Missoula County Commissioners at the end of April. The plan was presented to the Missoula City Council on May 6, 1991." (chronicles)

"May 1991: Early this year, St. Patrick president, Lawrence L. White, Jr., and Community Medical Center president, Grant Winn, began planning a joint venture regarding the acquisition of Clark Fork Valley Hospital, Plains, Mont. The hospital is currently owned by Brim Associates, and they want to divest themselves of this institution. Clark Fork Valley Hospital is a 16-bed rural hospital 100 miles west of Missoula." (chronicles)

"July 1992: Therese Schroeder-Sheker came to Missoula from Denver, Colo., with her 'Chalice of Repose' project. The internationally recognized program is the only one training men and women as 'music thanatologists,' that is, musicians who tend and comfort the dying with harp and voice. The main job of a Chalice worker is to help dissolve any impediment that would keep them from dying—you don't do any music that is stimulating, she says. Music thanatology deals with the complex needs of the dying, helping the dying person become a 'chalice' to receive and absorb music that helps them find a 'blessed death.' Chalice workers use only the harp and voice..."
and 11th century music that is based on infirmary practices of monks at Cluny, France, as they help patients resolve physical and spiritual pain.

Four faculty members and 24 students will start a 2-year educational program in the fall of 1992. They will provide Chalice services to the dying in Missoula without charge.” (chronicles)

“Oct. 1, 1992: At a press conference...Lawrence L. White, Jr., gratefully accepted a check for $140,000 from Montana Power Company President Bob Gannon. The money helps the hospital pay for a $360,000 energy-saving air conditioning project completed this summer. St. Pat’s yearly utility bill is about $800,000, and by taking advantage of this opportunity, they will save about $70,000 a year, which is about 9% on the energy bill.” (Chronicles)

1993-94

“Jan. 1993: An internist in her tenth year in Missoula, Anne M. Murphy, M.D., succeeds...Warren H. Guffin, M.D. as president of the hospital’s medical staff. Dr. Murphy is the first woman to hold the office in St. Pat’s 120-year history.” (chronicles)

Dr. Anne M. Murphy
(first female Chief of Staff)

CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATION

The medical library was originally housed in the School of Nursing. The school closed in 1978 and the library was then moved to several locations. The Center for Health Information was built in October 1993 and is open to everyone—professionals, patients and the public. This new center empowers
people to look after their own well being.

The collection includes 285 current journals, over 2,000 titles in medicine, nursing, hospital administration and management, as well as over 500 audio visuals. The Ridge collection [monographs, serials and videotapes that represent the interdisciplinary scholarship of the medical humanities] includes over 1,200 titles in the area of medical humanities and will expand annually by 150-200 additions.

There is an extensive collection of pathographies, stories of illnesses written by patients.

Users may select LaserCat, InfoTrac, Health Information Center, CINAHL, and Medline 1993- without charge.

The Institute of Medicine and Humanities (IMH) is a cooperative venture of St. Patrick Hospital and the University of Montana. IMH supports learning and study in the humanities, as these studies shed light on the way we care for the sick.

"Aug. 12, 1994: Bishop Alexander Brunett, new bishop of the Helena Diocese, visited St. Patrick Hospital this afternoon, touring and meeting with staff and visiting patients. He came to Montana in July from the Archdiocese of Detroit, where he was the pastor of Shrine of the Little Flower Parish in Royal Oak, Mich. As a parish priest, Bishop Brunett tried to visit patients in the local hospital every day. 'Caring for the sick is a special ministry,' he said, and 'visiting patients suffering from the pain and emotional distress of acute illness is a good reminder of how much we have to be thankful for.'" (chronicles)

1995-96

"Sept. 9, 1995: St. Pat's and Community Medical Center held their first ever joint fundraiser today. There was a 5K walk/run with participants getting a T-shirt and a piece of hot bread from Great Harvest Bread Company. Besides the 5K walk/run, the Compatible Day included a tennis tournament, golf scramble, a winetasting with a silent auction and a dinner with a live auction. Money raised at this event will be used to support the Cancer Center at St. Pat's and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at CMC. The day was a success with 74 golfers, 60 tennis players, more than 60 walkers/runners from St. Pat's alone, and 506 dinner goers. It netted $78,976 with St. Patrick's share being $38,488." (chronicles)

St. Patrick announced at a press conference the formation of the International Heart Institute of Montana. The Institute will provide a full continuum of cardiac services to patients from Western Montana and around the world, and will conduct research in the treatment of heart disease. Dr. Carlos Duran, a world-renown cardiac surgeon and researcher specializing in heart valve reconstruction and replacement, has been recruited to serve as Chief Executive Officer of the Institute. He invented the "Duran Ring," a flexible prosthetic device that is sewn to the supportive framework of a weak and dilated heart valve to provide needed support. The Institute, due to be fully functioning

5 Consecrated the eighth Bishop of Helena on July 6, 1994.
in September, will have two separate entities: The International Heart Institute of Montana (service to patients) and the International Heart Institute of Montana Foundation (research and educational activities). Dr. James H. Oury will be the Medical Director.

The fifth Rocky Mountain Valve Symposium was held at the hospital June 18-21, 1995. The faculty included internationally known valve surgeons who addressed more than 130 of the finest heart surgeons in the world.

An interactive live teleconference format was used for presentation of patient case histories and actual operations.

MISSION EFFECTIVENESS

In 1995, St. Patrick Hospital contributed resources in the form of administrative support and time, as well as financial support to a variety of programs.

• Administrative/Financial Support
  1. Start up costs and administrative support to initiate the International Heart Institute. Key objective includes research and development, and improving care for cardiac patients.
  2. Executive management involvement in evaluating potential collaborative efforts with Community Medical Center.
  3. In conjunction with Community Medical Center, shared funding of support staff for the Investigational Review Board to screen and monitor research involving human subjects.
  4. Subsidization of Northern Rockies Medical Services Corporation to foster the development of a primary care physician network.
  5. Continued collaboration with Community Medical Center to Support Partners in Health Care to provide home health services; support of this program ensures the existence of a not-for-profit agency to provide home health services to the community.
  6. Joint ownership with Community Medical Center of Plains Hospital (Clark Fork Valley), including participation on the board of directors; involvement in Plains Hospital ensures its not-for-profit status, gives St. Patrick the opportunity to have input into the direction of health care services in Plains, and creates the potential to further the mission of the Sisters in that community.
• Financial Support
  1. Chalice of Repose
  2. Missoula Economic Development Corporation
  3. Missoula First Night Sponsorship
  4. YWCA children's component of the Pathways Project for Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence
  5. Missoula Aging Services van and Senior Games
  6. American Diabetes Association Walk-a-Thon
  7. Area 4-H groups through the purchase of livestock at the Missoula County Fair

• Health Information for the Public
  1. Monthly newspaper and associated TV ads providing health information on breast cancer, diabetes, children's injuries, cardiac health, trauma
  2. Weekly radio show (House Calls) on which physicians and other health care providers respond to callers
  3. Mailing of diabetes and child injury prevention information to individuals who have used Ask-a-Nurse
  4. Library interlibrary loans and copies of articles for the public and local and rural physicians

• Health Services
  1. Nurse supervision of Mall Walkers
and AARP 55 Alive safe driving course

3. Senior citizen flu shot clinic

**NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT**

"The Neighborhood Project" is St. Patrick working with its neighbors to make its neighborhood a healthier place in which to live and work.

The neighborhood is defined as the Clark Fork River on the south to Interstate 90 on the north, and Russell Street on the west to Higgins Ave. on the east. The neighborhood includes Lowell School (k-5) where 76% of the children are considered low income; Northside and Westside where more than 40% of the residents are below the poverty level; all of the Northside where now only 24% of the families own their own home compared to more than 60% only 20 years ago; Historic Northside Railroad District with numerous buildings; a very strong neighborhood association which several years ago embarked on a plan to revitalize the neighborhood.

St. Patrick hired Bob Oaks, a neighborhood resident, to help with the project. He has been very active in the Northside Neighborhood Association, helping to found that organization in 1990.

One of the reasons for St. Patrick being involved in the project is that the focus of attention has been on treating illness, at times ignoring the cause behind the illness. St. Patrick can make a difference by working with the community to resolve the underlying cause of health problems.

One of the first steps in the project was to gather input on neighborhood needs and the resources already available, hearing from the people who live there and listening to what is important to them.

The first project was a summer reading program for disadvantaged children at Lowell School. Eighteen children in grades 2-5 who are having problems with reading skills will take part in a three-day-a-week program combining reading activities and computer skills. Many St. Patrick employees and community members are volunteering their time as mentors; local businesses are serving snacks and prizes.

**RADIOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP**

The first annual Sr. Alberic Marie Scholarship was awarded to Julie McFadden, second-year radiology tech student from Helena. The scholarship is funded by donations to the 30 Minute Club of St. Patrick Hospital Foundation. The class of 1996 will be the 36th class to graduate from the School of
Radiologic Technology, founded by Sr. Alberic Marie Paquette and Dr. Eugene J.P. Drouillard. In 1995 Sister was presented with a plaque commemorating the Sr. Alberic Marie Scholarship Fund.

April 25—The Transitional Care Unit on 5 South opened. Amber Hierro is director of nursing for the TCU.

Patients will generally be seniors who have spent a few days in St. Patrick acute care unit and need help learning to care for themselves before heading home. This unit is also designed for the patient who has an acute illness, injury or an increase in severity of a disease.

It uses homelike color combinations, cozy bedspeads and allows patients to wear their own clothes to help make them feel more comfortable. The unit also offers a superb view of Missoula from the fifth floor of the hospital.

During their free time, patients participate in a variety of activities: games, puzzles, reading, bingo, and cooking. Patients eat together in the dining room. The Pastoral Care Department has developed a special program for residents of TCU.

St. Patrick’s provides a number of unique services to the community and the region. The hospital is the principal provider of specialty medical services in the field of heart disease, including cardiac catheterization, coronary care and open heart surgery, cancer treatment, end-stage renal disease, including maintenance dialysis and CAPD/CCPD training, treatment and weight loss, major trauma emergency service, including a helicopter ambulance service, and occupational health services. In 1997, the hospital contemplates the new service of Convenient Care.

**ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

Lawrence L. White, Jr.  
John J. Burke, Jr.  
Virginia S. Iverson  
Joel J. Lankford  
Lynda L. Brown  
Timothy J. Engberg  
Daniel J. Reiner  

President  
Vice President, Nursing and Patient Care Services  
Vice President, Ancillary Services  
Vice President, Finance and Information Services  
Director, Human Resources  
Director, Planning and Community Services  
Executive Director, N. Rockies Medical Services
OTHER RELIGIOUS AND CLERGY

Sr. Vivian Ripp, SNJM  Chaplain
Sr. Elizabeth Olsen, BVM  Chaplain
Sr. Marie Corr, BVM  Chaplain
Rev. Roger E. Blanchette, SJ  Priest Chaplain
Rev. Henry Littlehales  Presbyterian Chaplain
Rev. Emmett Kelly  Volunteer Priest Chaplain

Lawrence L. White, Jr., President
MISSION STATEMENT

Our purpose is to provide a continuum of health care services in an environment where healing and education occur. We will do so in a collaborative, socially responsible way, in a manner allowing all participants to achieve their potential.

CORPORATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS CONNECTED WITH ST. PATRICK'S

St. Patrick Hospital Corporation
This is a second tier corporation sponsored by the Sisters of Providence, St. Ignatius Province. St. Patrick's owns or controls a number of affiliated organizations.

SPH and Health Foundation
The mission of the St. Patrick Foundation is to generate charitable gifts to the
benefit of St. Patrick Hospital and its affiliate organizations. SPH and Health Foundation is a not-for-profit controlled affiliate of the hospital.

Caron Health Corporation

Caron Health Corporation is a for-profit, wholly owned subsidiary of SPH Corporation. Caron owns separate, 50% partnership interests in a nursing home and a communications network.

Northern Rockies Medical Services, Inc.

This wholly owned for-profit subsidiary of St. Patrick Hospital provides a variety of health care related services.

St. Joseph Hospital Corporation

St. Joseph Hospital Corporation is a sponsored affiliate of St. Patrick Hospital Corporation. SJH serves the Polson, Mont., area for its acute outpatient healthcare needs.

1997 BUDGET AND OTHER STATISTICS

St. Patrick Hospital has included a projection of Social Accountability Expenditures for 1997. In addition to reductions to government programs, St. Patrick Hospital provides community benefit of $6,000,000 in the form of bad debts and charity care. In addition to providing free care, St. Patrick Hospital has a number of public benefit programs including education programs, volunteer programs, social programs [including meeting room availability, seniors flu shot, meals on wheels, and support housing], research, and emergency service programs.

The base population of the area served by St. Patrick's was 376,000 persons in 1996, a projected 381,380 persons for 1997, and a projected 402,068 persons for 2001.

The number of licensed beds at St. Patrick's was 213 in 1995, 195 in 1996, and 193 in 1997. The occupancy rate projected for 1997 is 64.86% There are 996 total FTE's projected for 1997.

Operating statistics: (projected for 1997) inpatient days 45,689; average length of stay 5.02; outpatient visits 16,098; Medicare revenue 52.64%; Blue Cross revenue 40.18%
**LATER SISTER AND LAY ADMINISTRATORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sr. Mary Bede</td>
<td>1966-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur V. Crandall</td>
<td>June 1967-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr. Simonne Begin</td>
<td>1975-80</td>
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<td>Sr. Marleen Hull</td>
<td>Feb.-July 1980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawrence L. White, Jr.</td>
<td>1980-present</td>
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# SUPERIORS

SAINT PATRICK HOSPITAL
MISSOULA, MONTANA
(founded April 19, 1873)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>124-T</td>
<td>Sister Mary Victor (Malvina Gadbois)</td>
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<tr>
<td>197-T</td>
<td>Sister Marie Louis (Marie-Elise Guyon)</td>
<td>1878-1890</td>
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<td>153-D</td>
<td>Sister Joseph of Arimathea (Denise Belaire)</td>
<td>1890-1892</td>
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<tr>
<td>265-T</td>
<td>Sister Mary Peter (Denise Beaupreux Champagne)</td>
<td>1892-1896</td>
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<tr>
<td>397-D</td>
<td>Sister Marie Euphemie (Eugenie Virginia Danis)</td>
<td>1896-1898</td>
</tr>
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<td>659-D</td>
<td>Sister Edgar (Pelagie Lariavire Chapdelaine)</td>
<td>1898-1903</td>
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<tr>
<td>860-D</td>
<td>Mother Gaspard (Marie Eugenie Bourque)</td>
<td>1903-1908</td>
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<td>906-D</td>
<td>Sister Hermine (Marie Louise Albina Sylvestre)</td>
<td>1908-1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>518-D</td>
<td>Sister Aldric (Marie Justine Elizabeth Lafontaine)</td>
<td>1911-1912</td>
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<td>Sister Tancrede (Mary Antoine Rocque)</td>
<td>1912-1918</td>
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<td>Mother Gaspard (Marie Eugenie Bourque)</td>
<td>1918-1924</td>
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<td>Sister Telesphore (Donalda Marleau)</td>
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<td>Mother Gaspard (Marie Eugenie Bourque)</td>
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<td>Sister Mary Alice (Margaret Catherine Woods)</td>
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<td>Mother Pascal (M. Laura Agnes Parent)</td>
<td>1934-1938</td>
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<td>Sister Agnes of the Sacred Heart (M. Agnes Dooney)</td>
<td>1938-1941</td>
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<td>Mother Brendan (Josephine Cassidy)</td>
<td>1948-1950</td>
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<td>Sister Amedee Marie (Jeanette Guay)</td>
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<td>Sister Xavier (Ethel Richardson)</td>
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<td>Sister Mary John (Honora Collins)</td>
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<td>3479-D</td>
<td>Sister Alberic Marie (Marie Anna Paquette)</td>
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<td>Sister Anne Bouffard (Jude Thaddeus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3180-D</td>
<td>Sister Germaine Charlebois (Julian of Egypt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3724</td>
<td>Sister Anne Bouffard (Jude Thaddeus)</td>
<td>1970-1971</td>
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(Selected residences after this date.)

D = deceased
T = transferred in or out of province
### SISTERS WHO SERVED AT ST. PATRICK HOSPITAL
MISSOULA, MONTANA
AS OF AUGUST 1997

<table>
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<tr>
<th>I.D. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years Served</th>
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<td>Aube, Sr. Albanus</td>
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<td>Avaricio, Sr. Isidaria</td>
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<td>Bandmann, Sr. Theresita</td>
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<td>Bouffard, Sr. Claire</td>
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#5860-X Kelly, Sr. Elsie 1989 to present
#983-D Kerouac, Sr. Anthony of Jesus 1901-03
#5375-X Koval, Sr. Anna Marie 1964-75; 1976-84
#5138-X Ladd, Sr. Marie Emmeline 1948-50; 1956-58; 1963-64; 1966-67
#3101-D Laforest, Sr. Mary Aurea 1937-40
#518-D Lafortune, Sr. Aldric 1899; 1906-11
#4594-X Lalonde, Sr. Yves 1964-66
#2758-D Landry, Sr. Helene of Troy 1924-31
#177-C Landry, Sr. Sara 1898-1902
#3108-T Lapointe, Sr. Zotique Marie 1925
#747-D Laroche, Sr. Mary Columba 1910-12
#5048-D Larrowe, Sr. Marion 1962-64; 1982-84
#2897-T Laurin, Sr. Gonzalve 1925; 1929-33; 1941-46
#2927-D Laurin, Sr. Jules Edmond 1926-30; 1937-38
#2308-T Lavigne, Sr. Camille of Jesus 1916-17; 1925-36
#1556-T Lavigne, Sr. Remi 1906-09; 1913-16; 1930-41
#1465-D Leclerc, Sr. Georgia 1932-33; 1948-49
#397-C Legault, Sr. Marie-Rose (date not recorded)
#2943-D Legendre, Sr. Thomas Mary 1932-33; 1948-58
#1429-D Lesage, Sr. Philippa 1913-20; 1947-48
#2437-D Levac, Sr. Joseph Arthur 1917-19; 1922-23; 1947-49
#2528-T Levesque, Sr. Leon Alphonse 1923-27; 1936-37; 1941-45
#4367-D MacDonald, Sr. Mary Bede 1946-49; 1951-52; 1966-67
#2011-D Madon, Sr. John of the Eucharist 1920-22; 1941-48
#3701-X Mahoney, Sr. Cecilia 1968-69
#5747-X Marceau, Sr. Ida Mae 1964-65
#4589-X Marceau, Sr. Loretta Marie 1944-49
#4367-D MacDonald, Sr. Mary Bede 1946-49; 1951-52; 1966-67
#2961-D Martin, Sr. Joseph Des Lys 1932-33; 1946-56; 1965-70
#857-D Massicotte, Sr. Mary Engelbert 1907-09; 1929-30
#1555-D Massicotte, Sr. Bernard of Parma 1915-16
#1428-D Mathon, Sr. Didier 1925-26
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3037-D</td>
<td>Perreault, Sr. Emilienne</td>
<td>1940-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4157-X</td>
<td>Reisenauer, Sr. Rose Dolores</td>
<td>1936-38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3125-T</td>
<td>Renaud, Sr. Jules Marie</td>
<td>1926-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1797-D</td>
<td>Renaud, Sr. Servule of Rome</td>
<td>1927-28; 1938-39; 1951-52; 1961-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4886-D</td>
<td>Richardson, Sr. Ethel</td>
<td>1960-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Time Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3292-T</td>
<td>Riebel, Sr. Gertrude Agnes</td>
<td>1941-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3645-T</td>
<td>Robert, Sr. Therese of Rome</td>
<td>1942-48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#807-D</td>
<td>Robidoux, Alexis of Providence</td>
<td>1913-25; 1932-33; 1934-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1404-D</td>
<td>Robitaille, Sr. Eugene of Tivoli</td>
<td>1907-15; 1917-19; 1920-30; 1935-54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3904-X</td>
<td>Rochester, Sr. Mary Lois</td>
<td>1936-50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#837-T</td>
<td>Rocque, Sr. Tancrede</td>
<td>1912-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4505-D</td>
<td>Roy, Sr. Joseph Cyril</td>
<td>1938-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4255-D</td>
<td>Rummell, Sr. Agatha Marie</td>
<td>1947-54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3284-D</td>
<td>Schumacker, Sr. Martina Mary</td>
<td>1933-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#585-D</td>
<td>Schwab, Sr. Rosula of Blessed Sacrament</td>
<td>1893-1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2412-D</td>
<td>Sevigny, Sr. Mary Gertrude</td>
<td>1946-61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#180-T</td>
<td>Smith, Sr. Mary Edward (foundress)</td>
<td>1873-(dates unknown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#182-C</td>
<td>Souligny, Sr. Exilda</td>
<td>1925-51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3071-D</td>
<td>Strommer, Sr. Rose Eva</td>
<td>1957-58; 1971-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3288-D</td>
<td>Sullivan, Sr. Grace</td>
<td>1968-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2467-D</td>
<td>Sullivan, Sr. Mary Dorothy</td>
<td>1956-57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#906-D</td>
<td>Sylvestre, Sr. Hermine</td>
<td>1908-10; 1919-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2838-T</td>
<td>Terriault, Sr. Damian of Sacred Heart</td>
<td>1929-33; 1936-49; 1954-62; 1964-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1725-T</td>
<td>Therien, Sr. Louis Eugene</td>
<td>1928-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2995-D</td>
<td>Thibodeau, Sr. Frances of Sacred Heart</td>
<td>1947-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1800-T</td>
<td>Thiroux, Sr. Angeline De Valence</td>
<td>1914-18; 1922-28; 1934-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#281-T</td>
<td>Tremblay, Sr. Mary Julian</td>
<td>1873-(dates unknown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2059-T</td>
<td>Vaillant, Sr. Reginald</td>
<td>1923-39; 1941-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3048-T</td>
<td>Vallee, Sr. Tarcisius</td>
<td>1926-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3336-T</td>
<td>Viel, Sr. Henry Napoleon</td>
<td>1928-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2789-D</td>
<td>Wilson, Sr. Mary</td>
<td>1922-23; 1955-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4613-T</td>
<td>Wolf, Sr. Dorothy</td>
<td>1959-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#673-T</td>
<td>Woods, Sr. Mary Alice</td>
<td>1932-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4958-X</td>
<td>Zimmer, Sr. Dorothy</td>
<td>1978-82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D = Deceased  
T = Transferred in or out of province  
X = St. Ignatius Province, current  
C = Coadjutrixes
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS OF INTEREST

Sr. M. Francine & Sr. Amedee Marie
Nov. 23, 1935 (L-R)

Below: nursing staff
1935
Demolition of Sacred Heart Academy for construction of present hospital on same site

1890 view of Catholic complex

L-R: St. Joseph School, Sacred Heart Academy (background), St. Francis Xavier Church (Jesuit), St. Patrick, County Courthouse
Hospital week May 7, 1967
SP's L-R: Srs. Lily May Emert, Alberic Marie Paquette, nurse, Louisa Hageman, Anna Marie Koval (black), and Marie E. Ladd

First hospital ledger page (2nd. Patient was Fr. Ravalli, S.J.)
SP's at St. Patrick's 1972:
L-R: Srs. Catherine Palmatier, Therese Leonie Beaupre, Bernadine Ginder, Rose Eva Strommer, Beatrice Damphousse, Annette Parent, Marita Chestnut, (sister of another order), Anna Marie Koval, Alberic Marie Paquette.

Sr. M. Dolores 1936
Life Flight Helicopter 1984

Arrival of first helicopter patient Oct. 6, 1952
Laying of cornerstone for 1952 hospital

Construction of current hospital
Center for Health Information, St. Patrick’s

Sr. Catherine Palmatier March 1997
X-ray department 1984

Art Crandall, administrator, June 25, 1973 (center)
INDEX

(Sisters are listed by first name—all others by last name. Those persons included in photos at the back of the history are not necessarily listed in the index.)

Agnes of the Sacred Heart, Sister.............................................................31 (photo)
Alberic Marie, Sister .............................................................................31 (photo), 37 (photo), 50, 51 (photo), 57, 64, 71, 79, 80
Amedee Marie, Sister .............................................................................31 (photo), 32 (photo), 68
Angeline of Valence, Sister.................................................................22 (photo), 31 (photo)
Anna Maria (Pelletier), Sister ..............................................................31 (photo), 66 (photo)
Anna Marie (Koval), Sister ...................................................................59 (photo)
Anne Bouffard, Sister..........................................................................57 (photo)
Annette (Parent), Sister .......................................................................52 (photo)
Barbara Ann, Sister............................................................................38 (photo), 63, 68
Beatrice Damphousse, Sister...............................................................62, 63 (photo)
Bernadette Botch, Sister....................................................................69
Bourget, Bishop Ignace..........................................................................11, 18
Brondel, Bishop John B..........................................................................18
Brown, Lynda........................................................................................80
Brunett, Bishop Alexander 76
Burke, John J., Jr..................................................................................80
Caron, Mother.....................................................................................8, 10 (photo), 12
Caron Health Corporation.....................................................................83
Carroll, Bishop John P...........................................................................22, 25
Catherine Palmatier, Sister..................................................................62 (photo)
Celeste Cormier, Sister (Louise Helen)..............................................50 (photo)
Center for Health Information.........................................................75, (photo at back)
Chalice of Repose..................................................................................74
Charlotte Marie, Mother.......................................................................50
Clark Fork Valley Hospital....................................................................74, 77
Community Medical Center..................................................................74
ComPatible Day.....................................................................................76
Crandall, Art.........................................................................................47, 50, 51, 53, 55 (photo), 56, 59
Crolla, Dominic.....................................................................................64
Curtiss, Bishop Elden F..........................................................................65, 69
Damian of the Sacred Heart, Sister...................................................31 (photo), 54 (photo)
DeSmet, Fr. Peter John, SJ....................................................................5, 11
Donat, Sister........................................................................................18
Dorothy Zimmer, Sister........................................................................64 (photo)
Drouillard, Dr. Eugene.........................................................................51, 55 (photo), 57, 80
Duran, Dr. Carlos..................................................................................76
Eileen Croghan, Sister...........................................................................60, 67 (photo)
Elizabeth Godin (coadjutrix), Sister...................................................24 (photo)
Elsie Kelly, Sister..................................................................................72 (photo), 73
Engberg, Timothy................................................................................80
Eilene Carthan, Sister...........................................................................43 (photo), 44 (photo), 46, 59, 66 (photo)
Eugene of Tivoli, Sister.......................................................................23 (photo), 31 (photo)
Exilda Souligny (coadjutrix), Sister....................................................26 (photo), 31 (photo)
Fidela, Sister........................................................................................58 (photo)
Finnegan, Bishop George J.................................................................26
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page Numbers</th>
<th>Photo References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frances of the Sacred Heart, Sister</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamelin, Emilie, Mother</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaspard, Mother</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgius, Mother</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germaine, Sister (Julian of Egypt)</td>
<td>31, 56</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilmore, Bishop Joseph M.</td>
<td>28, 29, 34, 38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonzalve, Sister</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayes, Bishop Ralph</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hanke, Dr. Emil</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunthausen, Bishop Raymond</td>
<td>42, 59, 63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Heart Institute of Montana</td>
<td>77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Medicine and Humanities</td>
<td>73, 76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isidaria, Sister</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iverson, Virginia</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane, Sister</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph of Providence, Sister</td>
<td>16, 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Mother</td>
<td>10, 11</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Cyril, Sister</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Lucien, Sister</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kintner, Dr. Arthur R.</td>
<td>27, 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lankford, Joel</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon Alphonse, Sister</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesar, Joe</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>(photo), 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily May, Sister</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>(photo), 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lina, Sister</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loretta Marie (Marceau), Sister</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisa Hageman (Barbara Clare), Sister</td>
<td>46, 53</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Dorothy, Sister</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalene of Providence, Sister</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion, Sister</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marita, Sister</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. of the Infant Jesus, Sister</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>(photo), 8, 11, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Bede, Sister</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. de Bonsecours, Sister</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Amedee, Sister</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Dolores, Sister</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>(photo), 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Edward, Sister</td>
<td>11, 12, 13, 14</td>
<td>(photo), 16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Gertrude, Sister</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Ignatius, Sister</td>
<td>39, 66</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. John (Honora Collins), Sister</td>
<td>46, 49</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Julian, Sister</td>
<td>14, 15</td>
<td>(photo), 17, 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Lois, Sister</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>(photo), 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Magdalene, Sister</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Tekakwitha, Sister</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Trinitas, Sister</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Victor, Sister</td>
<td>8, 12, 14, 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Holland, Sister</td>
<td>62, 65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mildred Dolores, Sister</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monald, Sister</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana Corporation</td>
<td>19 a. &amp; b.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murphy, Dr. Anne M.</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevin, Dr. Donald R.</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>(photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Rockies Medical Services Corp.</td>
<td>77, 83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses/School of Nursing photos</td>
<td>23, 28, 28 a.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>