

## Archbishop Bergan Performs Dedication

Consecrated in 1948 at Omaha

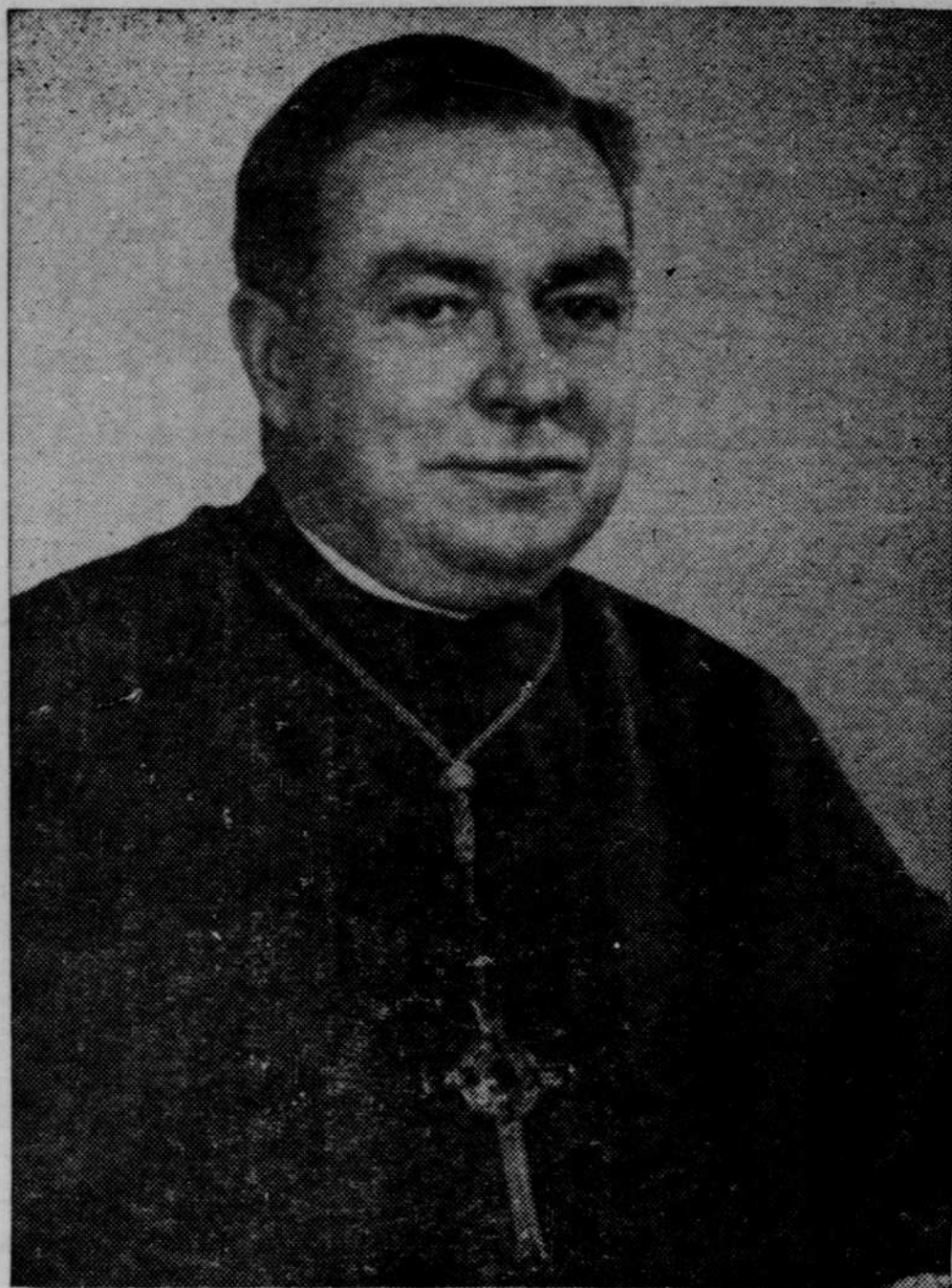
Present on the O'Neill hospital's inaugural day will be His Excellency, Most Rev. Gerald T. Bergan, archbishop of Omaha, to perform the dedication of St. Anthony's hospital.

Gerald T. Bergan was born in Peoria, Ill., January 6, 1892. At the very young age of 23 he was ordained in Rome, having excelled in scholastic work at the Gregorian university. His early years as a young priest were spent as a curate at St. Mary's cathedral in Peoria.

Not 20 years after his ordination, the then Father Bergan was consecrated bishop of the diocese of Des Moines, from where he came to Omaha to be consecrated archbishop in 1948.

Archbishop Bergan's few years in Omaha have already endeared him to the people of that city and the entire state.

Possessed with a magnificent sense of humor, and a real love of people and life, he enjoys a wide reputation as a witty and effective speaker.



His Excellency, Most Rev. Gerald T. Bergan . . . ordained in Rome at age of 23.

## St. Anthony's Hospital Is Beautiful

(By Ralph J. Kelly in The Atkinson Graphic)

St. Anthony's Hospital in O'Neill is about ready for opening, and dedication ceremonies are set for Wednesday, September 24. I had the privilege of an unofficial conducted tour through the new building last Friday afternoon. Workmen were busy adding the finishing touches to many parts of the hospital, but nearly all of the rooms and the various departments were completed, decorated, furnished, fully equipped and ready for occupancy.

In the large, modernly equipped kitchen, one of the Sisters was busily putting up fruit, jams and jellies to stock away in the pantry. Others were busy at cleaning, unpacking equipment and otherwise looking after the many minor details that must be done before a brand new building is ready to function.

St. Anthony's, a 35-bed institution, is not the largest hospital in northeast Nebraska, but I will say that none surpasses it in modern equipment and certainly there can be none more appropriately nor beautifully decorated and furnished. I think it's too bad that to occupy one of the rooms a person must be ill.

Congratulations to Jim Corkle, chairman of the building committee, and all others who had a hand in bringing this project to its completion. And after my tour of the building I can't help but adding special congratulations to whoever was responsible for the tasteful beauty of the interior decorating and furnishings which in no small measure will add much to the comfort of St. Anthony's patients.

All Holt county can be proud of this hospital, which was proposed as an institution to serve the entire sandhills area, and was built and equipped to carry out that purpose adequately.



Mother Bertram (right) and Sister M. Fara look on while Herley Jones (left foreground) and D. F. Murphy unpack the potato peeler in the kitchen of the new hospital. Photo was taken recently. Dozens of volunteers turned out to help unpack the equipment.

## Fine Hospital, Once a Dream, Now a Reality

Today, on St. Mary's academy grounds, St. Anthony's hospital stands as a proud tribute to O'Neill and surrounding territory. Imposing in its architectural perfection, incomparably equipped with the products of an age of medical science never before realized, it stands forth invitingly, a fountain of the art of healing, a giver and a server of life and health.

But old men dream dreams while young men see visions. When the present St. Mary's academy was erected, the lots adjoining it on the northwest were included in the property.

O'Neill has a hospital, a new and magnificent hospital.

But it wasn't always so. Just a few years after Frank Campbell had traded with the immortal Sitting Bull, and only five short years after O'Neill had written a chapter of western history with the Barrett Scott incident involving the marauding vigilantes, the present site of St. Anthony's was little more than a pasture, used for grazing cattle. O'Neill itself was but a diminutive county seat whose entire life was virtually centered in its courthouse. If the prospect of a fine hospital was even a thought, it could have been no more than a long-range dream.

For no one in this community, then counting no more than a thousand souls, could imagine that one day O'Neill would have a firstclass hospital that would compare favorably with large metropolitan hospitals.

O'Neill grew. The year 1939 was a significant year. The dry spell was over and hard times were fast coming to a close. It seemed that the dream of a hospital might now, at long last, become a reality. Such was not to be the case, however. An offer by the WPA to the Sisters never reached the stage of agreement. But by now the idea had become widespread

and the need an irrefutable fact. From the corpse of the first failure was born the spirit that was to lead ultimately to today's success.

When the ancient philosopher, Seneca, wished to inculcate among his young students a respect for the precedence of antiquity, he used to say, "Today would never be ours had it not been for yesterday."

In the same manner the O'Neill that began yesterday has been steadily progressing and improving. Their's was the struggle for the courthouse, the recognition of the railroads, the rise (and occasional fall) of many diverse and indispensable business enterprises. To the forebearers and to a select handful of oldtimers still living belongs the credit for O'Neill's early growth.

Responding gratefully to its heritage, present O'Neill's contribution is its new hospital. In the immediate past, people of O'Neill and its surrounding community have had to travel to Norfolk, Sioux City, Omaha or Grand Island for hospitalization.

In the remote past, it was immeasurably worse. Long and weary train rides were endured, doctors were called from great distances at much expense of both time and finances. Many of O'Neill's oldest citizens say that for lack of accessible hospital facilities, many were compelled to simply accept their ailment, remain home and suffer until death. But now the sun has dispelled the darkness. Not a sun like nature provides as a gift, but a man-made light. No more the era of inaccessible hospitalization, no longer the necessity of long distance communication for patients and relatives. The dream has been realized, the vision has been attained, the work has been productive.

O'Neill has a hospital, flawlessly erected and fully equipped to serve and save.

### Make Offerings —

In a fine response to an appeal for flowers to deck the halls and rooms of St. Anthony's for the dedication day ceremonies, numerous florist shops, garden clubs and flower groups throughout the state answered the inaugural call with a gorgeous display of flowers.

The Sisters' quarters will be in cloister after the opening day of the hospital, but before then it is possible to see their section located on the first floor at the east end of the building. Seven "cells," as they are called, a dining room, a sewing room and an office house the "angels" of St. Anthony's.

# COYNE HARDWARE

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offer sincere . . .

*Congratulations*

TO

St. Anthony's Hospital

We are pleased to have played a role in furnishing some of the BUILDER'S HARDWARE and SUPPLIES in connection with this magnificent new hospital.

We extend heartfelt congratulations and sincerest best wishes to the good Sisters of St. Francis.

