

'Amazed, Pleased and So Proud'

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Yesterday, I visited St. Anthony's hospital.

Walking down the familiar sidewalk in front of St. Mary's academy, I remembered the days, not too long ago, when I used to roller skate down the big hill that extends west from the main building. Now, that same sidewalk has branched off in a new direction. In the middle of the park, surrounded by green shrubs, lilac bushes and small trees in orderly profusion, I passed the statue of Our Lady of Grace. Here, too, I remember the entire student body of St. Mary's, gathered on a green May lawn singing, "On This Day Oh Beautiful Mother."

Years of planning, hard work and diligence have resulted in St. Anthony's, a 37-bed modern hospital that now stands at the end of this gently curving path.

Through the trees, I could see the building, rectangular in shape, with a huge cross forming the entrance. Devoid of landscaping as yet, the building looks raw, but with spring's promise of green grass, it will be an even more inspiring sight. Coming through the entrance, I turned left to go up a small series of steps that lead to the lobby. The cheerful and modern coloring, deep brown and a sunny yellow, immediately struck my eye. Colors that were more homelike than hospital in their feeling.

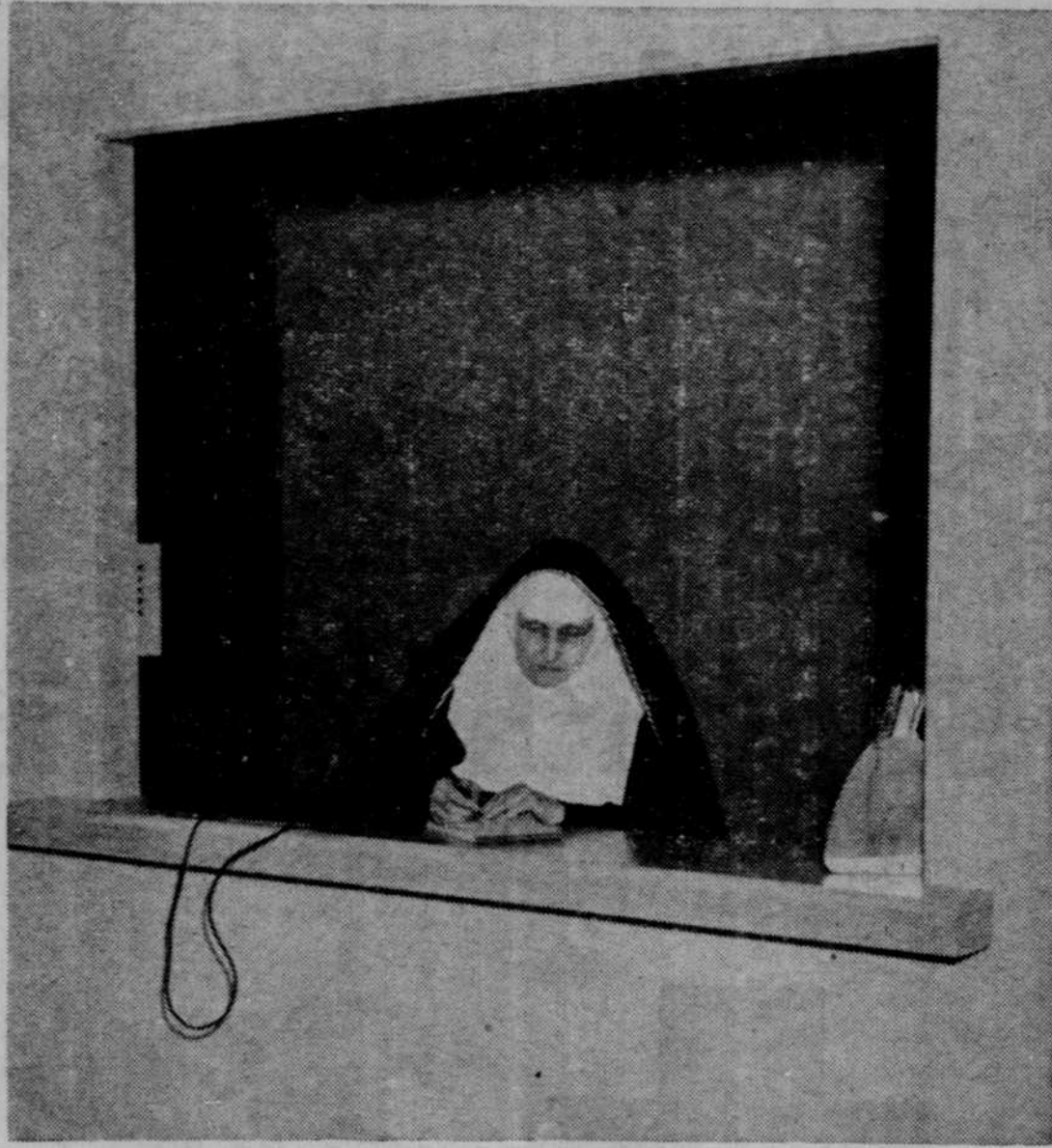
In one corner of the lobby, I saw the statue of St. Anthony, a gift of the St. Michael group of the local chapter of the Catholic Daughters of America. The office, which adjoins the lobby, carries out that same cheerful coloring. There, I found Sister M. Delores, who is the business head of St. Anthony's. Again, I remembered, for Sister Delores had been head of the high school when I was at St. Mary's.

Going out of the lobby, into the hall, I turned right. Again I could notice the use of cheerful colors, bright drapes and a harmony of design that was most restful. At the far east end of the hospital is the chapel, with a high arched ceiling reminiscent of a monastery, decorated in shades of green and coral. The altar is modern, and almost stark in its simplicity done in limed oak. The Sisters' quarters, or cloister, is at the east end of the building and adjacent to the chapel.

The great green doors of the elevator intrigued me to the extent that I pushed the button and the doors opened. The size of the elevator was a revelation: Large and roomy, one that could accommodate a hospital cart, food trays, or what ever else needed to be carried up or down.

Next to the elevator is the ambulance entrance, which opens on the north side of the building. This in turn opens into the examination room. From there, by a series of connecting doors one can reach the x-ray room and the laboratory so that all three form a compact unit.

The remaining rooms on the west end of the first floor are for patients with the exception of the chaplain's quarters which



Sister M. Delores . . . she'll be the business head of St. Anthony's hospital.

Rev. Joseph F. Lane will occupy. Again, I noticed, in all the rooms, the harmonious use of color. Each patient's room, some singles, some doubles, is individually done. Three sides of the walls are painted one color and the remaining wall is painted a contrasting color. The drapes are full-length and blend in with the overall color scheme. The beds are of a light colored wood, and looked so comfortable, it was hard to resist the temptation to rest my weary bones. But I had much yet to see and curiosity had the better of me.

Going up the west stairway to the second floor, I met Mother Bertram and Sister M. Ludmilla. Mother Bertram is the superior of the hospital, and, of course, I had a lot of questions to ask her. She was very kind in answering them. I asked her what the small silver discs were for in each room, and was told that they were individual oxygen outlets that piped into each room. These eliminate the need of a portable oxygen cart. She explained, too, about the multidirectional lights that are over each bed. I then asked Sister M. Ludmilla, the supervisor of nurses, about the nurses' station. She explained about the call chart, where each room has an indicator that lights up when a patient wants something.

The nurses' island, as it is called, is right in the middle of the floor on the north wall, so that they have full view of all the rooms.

At the west end of the second floor is the maternity ward, with the obstetrical department and the nursery. Sister M. Ludmilla told me that the maternity ward and nursery have a capacity of 12 beds and 12 bassinets. The nursery which is large, light and airy, forms a compact unit by itself.

imagine these same cribs being filled with small, squirming bits of humanity crying lustily for their 2 a.m. feeding.

In planning the hospital, they certainly didn't overlook the "worry room" for expectant fathers. A large room, bright with large overstuffed chairs for comfortable sitting, and a walking and pacing space of about 20 feet. Thoughtfully too, they've included large ash trays for cigarettes.

Each door that I opened held a nice surprise. The rooms, all in different color combinations, made me feel that being sick could be a real pleasure here.

The surgical ward is at the east end of the building, second floor. This unit is comprised of two operating rooms, one for major surgery and one for minor surgery. The operating rooms are closed off from the rest of the hospital, so that they form a complete isolated unit.

I was particularly fascinated with the lights that stand over the operating table. A complexity of lights and mirrors that surely must require an engineer to operate them.

However, Mother Bertram told me that it was very simple to operate this mechanism.

From the operating rooms, I went back to a room called the sterilization room where all the operating gowns, surgical towels, etc., are put in a large cylinder to be sterilized. I noticed that all the gowns and towels were a light green in color, and Mother Bertram told me that this particular color was used because it deflected the light.

Coming out the door, I met two of the staff, Miss Delores Branstreter, the x-ray technician, and Miss Pat Cain, the laboratory technician.

The basement houses the kitchen, laundry and furnace rooms. In the kitchen, I saw a housewife's dream come true; a stove with two large cooking areas, automatic dishwasher, meat grinder and a meat slicer, stainless steel working surfaces, deep freeze and a refrigerator large enough

to crawl into on a hot day. There I met Sister M. Fara, and like the chef in the fairy tales, she makes a pie fit to set before a king. I know. I had a piece!

In the laundry room are washer, dryers and a large mangle that will press a full sheet in nothing flat.

The furnace room is a complexity of large and small pipes from great furnaces that look for all the world like great silver dragons.

Finally my trip through the hospital was over. And I can only say that I am amazed, pleased and so proud of St. Anthony's.

Mountain of Linen

Easy for Laundry —

Laundry rooms, generally speaking, aren't very interesting. However, the laundry room at St. Anthony's is!

It is the answer to a washer-woman's dream.

The huge washer, dryer, mangle and steam iron add up to efficiency plus, and make it a relatively simple task to dispose of a mountain of dirty linen. Imagine the feeling of being confronted with 74 sheets daily or nine times that amount of regular toweling, hospital gowns, surgical toweling and gowns and so forth. But with St. Anthony's laundry, the "Washwoman Blues" is a song that is not likely to be heard.

Many will remember that the present location of the St. Anthony's hospital park many years ago was the site of the Dykman and Kilmurray homes. Since converted by the Sisters into a park adjoining the school, it will now be part of the hospital grounds to be enjoyed by convalescing patients.

Extra copies of this magazine, The Frontier's St. Anthony's hospital supplement, are available for 25 cents per copy, postage prepaid. Address: The Frontier, Circulation Dept., Box 330, O'Neill, Nebr.

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