

Story of New Hospital

(Continued from page 2).

help, the hospital would not and could not be.

The urgency in attaining the 100-thousand-dollar goal created real enthusiasm in all quarters. Everyone will recall the days of fast and furious activity when numerous groups and organizations, clubs and individuals took up the challenge and together wrote the success story that now stands to a monument of Christian community enterprise.

Another article in this issue dwells on this chapter. But placing credit where credit is due can be stated only like this: Well done, everyone!

A building was erected near the corner of Fourth and Douglas streets to serve as headquarters for the fund-raising. Before the office was six weeks old the 44-thousand-dollar goal had been narrowed to 22-thousand. The spirit of group activity and community cooperation kept the fund skyrocketing forward, until finally in October, 1949 the goal was reached!

At last count, almost 125-thousand-dollars had been raised. The federal government granted 53 percent of the total cost and the Sisters would assume the burden of the balance. It was estimated that one-half of a million dollars would be the cost of the hospital furnished and equipped.

Frank N. McNett & Co. of Grand Island were engaged as architects, and sketches were readied for approval. In April, 1950, one was accepted. Bids for contracts were opened in June. The general contract was fixed at \$243,800. James Davidson & Sons of O'Neill received the nod for plumbing \$78,985, and Lester Electric of Wayne got the contract for electrical installations for \$17,798.

On July 16, 1950, Mother M. Erica turned the first shovel of dirt in a scheduled groundbreaking ceremony.

The building was completed two years later, and volunteer workmen moved, unpacked, and set up hospital equipment. The overall plant was infinitely bigger and finer than the original plan. Spiraling costs had played havoc

but the move weathered every storm.

O'Neill's vision of a hospital had been freed of the last hazy mist of unreality.

It has become a tangible, concrete reality that a man can step in and touch, and go to and send his family to, to be cared for and healed.

And it isn't something that is merely accessible. It is right in the lap of O'Neill, a queen of mercy, stretching forth inviting hands to the entire surrounding area.

'Put' a Liaison Who Got Job Done

Back during the "terrible thirties" a round little fellow breezed into O'Neill and set up shop as a farm implement and machinery



Mr. Putnam . . . he passed the hat.

dealer. He had weathered South Dakota drouths, grasshoppers and winters and had a peculiar knack for dealing in cattle, horses and tractors.

The man: L. D. Putnam. With the same gusto and enthusiasm that has marked him as a success in his own field, "Put," as he is popularly known, tied into the hospital job.

It was Mr. Putnam who performed much of the liaison between the committee and those who could—and might—make substantial gifts. It was this same round little fellow who interceded at a benefit auction of baseballs or used furniture and promptly multiplied the selling figures. The auction always went ahead on schedule but the coffers were fuller by virtue of the Putnam touch.

Frequently he accomplished this by buying the gadget himself.

His credo was simple: It's all for the benefit of the hospital; forget the going rate or actual value; the hospital needs the money.

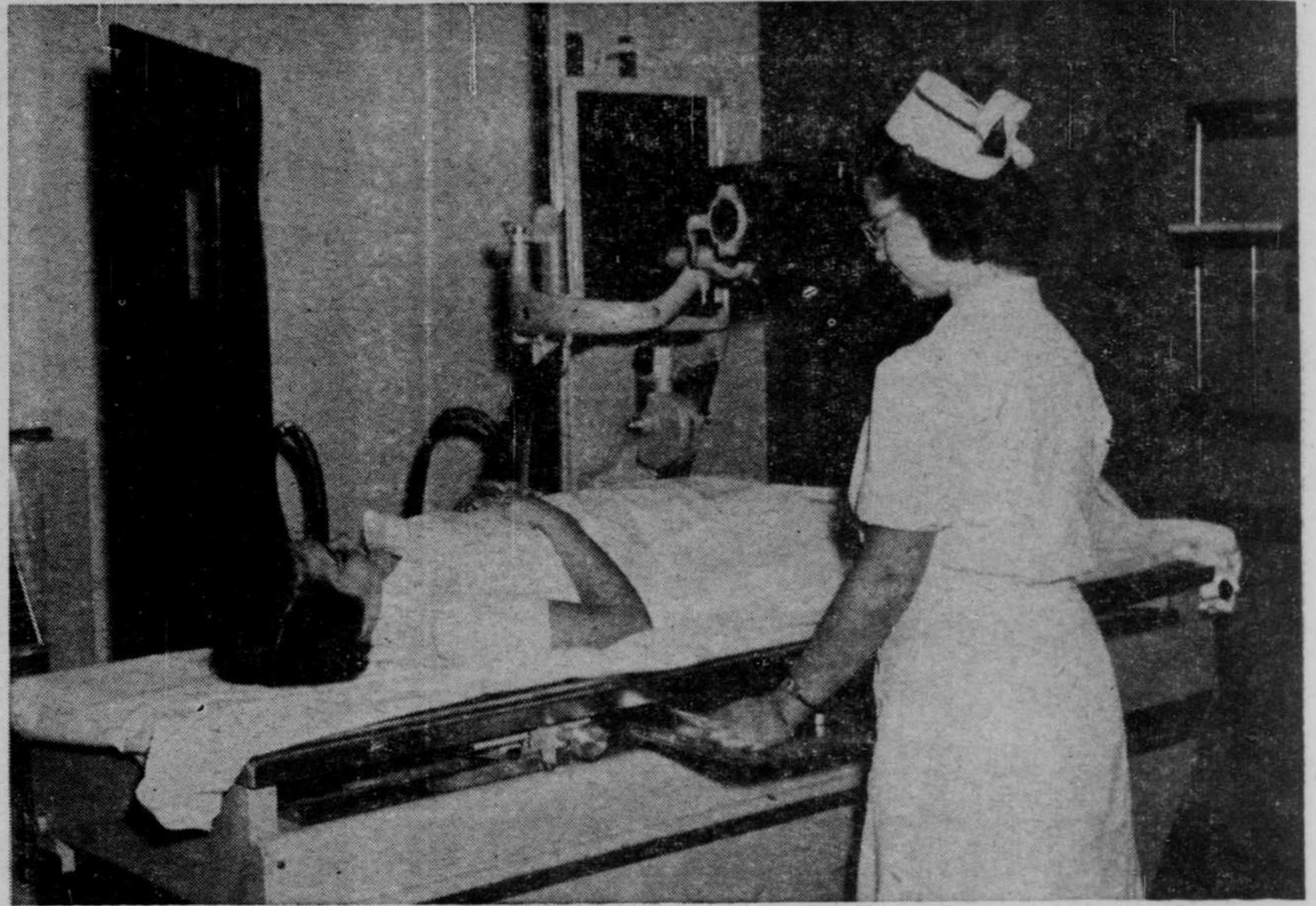
When a hurry-up conference was necessary between the committee and the contractors or federal officials or for any one of a hundred other reasons, "Put" was one of the fall guys. And he turned in a good accountng.

Above his own personal contributions in time and money, someone has sized up "Put's" role in the new hospital like this:

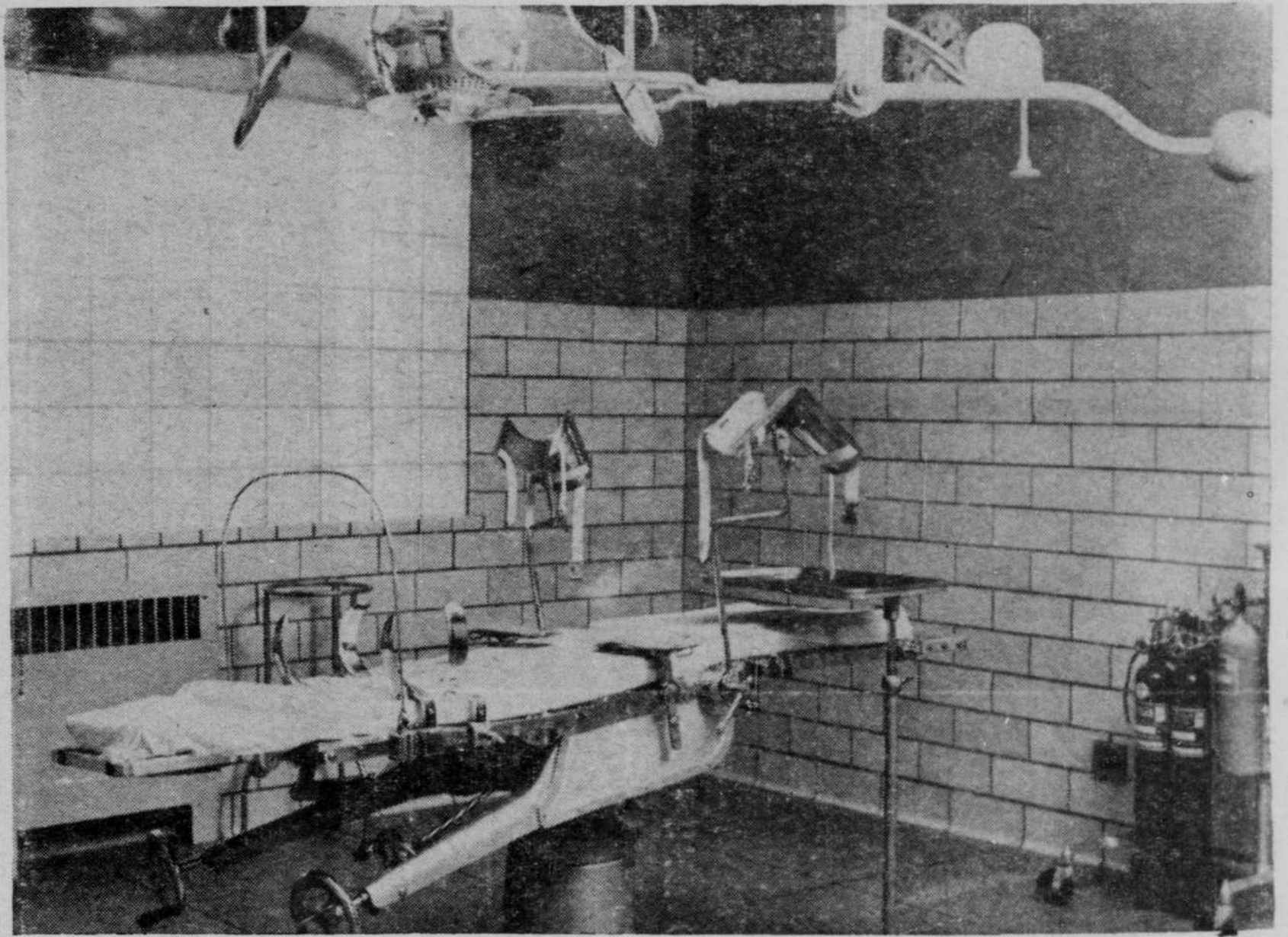
"He's the fellow who passed the hat!"

Bernard Allen Named Resident Engineer

Resident engineer at the new hospital is Bernard Allen, son of Mrs. Margaret Allen. In charge of the power units, heating and electrical equipment, Mr. Allen will reside in special quarters in the hospital, being available at



Miss Patricia Cain, laboratory technician at St. Anthony's, poses as perfect patient while Miss Marilyn Branstreter displays perfect form as X-ray technician. Both are specialists in O'Neill's new hospital.



TWO OPERATING ROOMS . . . Outstanding in the new hospital is the surgery department with both major and minor surgery rooms. Anesthesia equipment, lighting facilities and operating table are of the latest type.



This is the carefully appointed visitors' parlor on the second floor. Adequate walking space has been provided for expectant fathers.

WM. KROTTER Co. of O'Neill

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O'Neill

all times to maintain indispensable electrical power and heat in the building.

The hospital planners have incorporated certain remote control facilities into the engineer's living quarters, enabling him to "feel the pulse" of the heating system at all times.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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