

Community Hospital Today

The present Eagle Lake Community Hospital replaced a structure which was constructed in 1941 by Dr. J.R. Laughlin. The hospital was opened on June 14, 1942 as the Laughlin Memorial Hospital in memory of Dr. J.R.'s father, John Rufus Laughlin.

Dr. J.R. Laughlin, later was joined by his brother, Dr. J.C. Laughlin in the operation of the clinic. Dr. J.R. and Dr. J.C. and later Dr. R. R. Thomas com-

pleted the medical staff of the local hospital. Mrs. Grace Dornon Towell was the first superintendent of nurses of the Laughlin Memorial Hospital and she was joined on the staff by Mrs. Oleta Hardy, Mrs. E.Y. Ginn and Miss Enos Moss.

In 1967 the Laughlins and Dr. Thomas turned over operation of the hospital to the Eagle Lake Community Hospital Foundation, a non-profit organization and in 1969 plans were started

for a fund drive to erect the present new building and its facilities.

Today, portions of the old hospital and clinic are still being used. Ugarie Clinic occupies the space which was the newest addition to the Laughlin Memorial Hospital and Laughlin Clinic occupies the old clinic space.

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FIVE YEAR COMMUNITY EFFORT

It took five years of diligent planning, hard work, and cooperation by hundreds of persons, but the efforts were well rewarded when the Eagle Lake Community Hospital was dedicated on Sunday, March 23, 1975.

It was in 1969 that the citizens of Eagle Lake and surrounding communities began to realize that the hospital which had served this community since 1942 under the ownership of Dr. J.R. Laughlin and later under the administration of the Eagle Lake Community Hospital Board were becoming too small and outdated.

A new hospital needed to be built in order to conform to the regulations of the Medicare and Medicaid state and federal requirements.

Planning was started by the board of the Community Hospital with the advice and consultation of Doctors J.R. Laughlin, J.C. Laughlin and R. R. Thomas.

LAND DONATED

In December of 1969 it was announced by the board that Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. McCreary and family and Mrs. Bruce McCarty had made a gift of nine acres of land on Austin Road on the western edge of the city limits of Eagle Lake as a site for the construction of a new hospital.

In that same year the board hired the architectural firm of Page,

Southerland and Page of Austin to make proposed plans and sketches for the construction of a new facility.

Tentative plans were made for the construction of a new 35-bed hospital to serve the needs of the community and a fund drive was organized.

\$550,000 CONTRIBUTED IN FIVE MONTHS

Final plans were made for a fund-raising campaign to begin on January 1, 1970 to raise \$550,000 to match an anticipated grant of an equal amount from the federal Hill-Burton program.

David R. Wintermann and J.H. Clipson agreed to serve as co-chairmen of the fund drive and the First National Bank of Eagle Lake got the campaign underway with a \$10,000 check.

The fund drive moved rapidly under the excellent leadership of the finance chairman and by March 15, 1970 it had passed the \$400,000 mark. A \$75,000 contribution from the Moody Foundation on May 1 assisted in increasing the collection by mid-May to \$550,000 and on May 28 of 1970 application was made to the State Board of Health for a matching grant for the erection of the \$1.25 million facility.

GROUND BREAKING

Ground was broken to officially kick off the construction program on March 28, 1973. Dr. J.R. Laughlin, senior member of the medical staff, and Mrs. Earl Rodgers, Jr., the president of the Eagle Lake Community Hospital's board of directors, had the honor of turning the first shovel of dirt for the project. Dedication of the hospital was to be almost two years to the date of the groundbreaking ceremony.

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL TODAY

Today the Eagle Lake Community Hospital is a full service, short-term, acute care facility which offers medical, surgical and

obstetrical services. There also is an emergency room manned by the hospital's staff physicians.

With the completion soon of the new wing, the Eagle Lake Community hospital will total 47 beds and maintain two labor rooms. Other services offered at the hospital include full outpatient physical and inhalation therapy and a full time hospital pharmacist.

Another service which is of particular value is the hospital's utilization of the "LifePile" service offered by Herman Hospital in Houston. The "LifePile" which is located just to the side of the parking lot provides a quick, easy trip for the patient from the hospital to the helicopter.

One area of service to the citizens of the community which is of particular pride to the hospital personnel is that of the relationship the hospital and doctors have with out-of-town specialists. The hospital feels it is important to be able to serve patients in need of surgery and with other major medical needs "at home," when possible, rather than sending the patient to Houston hospitals.

Not only does this save the patient money, but it offers the security of being in a familiar place with familiar people, while maintaining high quality care equal to that of Houston hospitals and with the expertise of specialists.

Of prime importance to the functioning of any hospital is its equipment necessary for diagnosis and treatment and many times, life-saving. Eagle Lake Community Hospital is very proud of its equipment, much of which has been donated by the Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary.

Two new pieces of equipment which will soon be in use at the hospital and which the Auxiliary provided are the fetal heart monitor and the equipment for mammography.

One of the advanced pieces of equipment used by the hospital is the computerized electrocardiograph (EKG). This piece of equipment can be rolled into any room and attached to the patient as with any EKG. However, the data is sent via telephone lines by the instrument to the main computer bank in Beaumont.

Within five minutes a complete status report of the patient's heart functions is received by physicians at the hospital. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If the physician here so desires an overread can be requested. This service provides a personal study of the EKG by a specialist in Beaumont and is received by the hospital's physician the next day.

One distinct advantage of this computerized service is that information concerning each patient's heart function is stored in Beaumont. When the next EKG is performed, the computer not only will send the current data but will make a serial analysis of any differences between the current data and past data. Physicians can then determine if a particular condition is growing worse or improving.

This same service, with slight variations, is also available with the electroencephalogram or EEG.

H-B FUND SETBACK

In 1970 President Richard Nixon vetoed \$2.7 billion in funds including allocations to the Hill-Burton program. But some time thereafter the House and Senate successfully overrode the veto and funds were released for continuation of the hospital construction program.

GOOD NEWS

In November of 1972 the good news arrived that the State Board of Health had announced its approval of a \$600,000 grant from the Hill-Burton program for the construction of the new Eagle Lake Community Hospital.

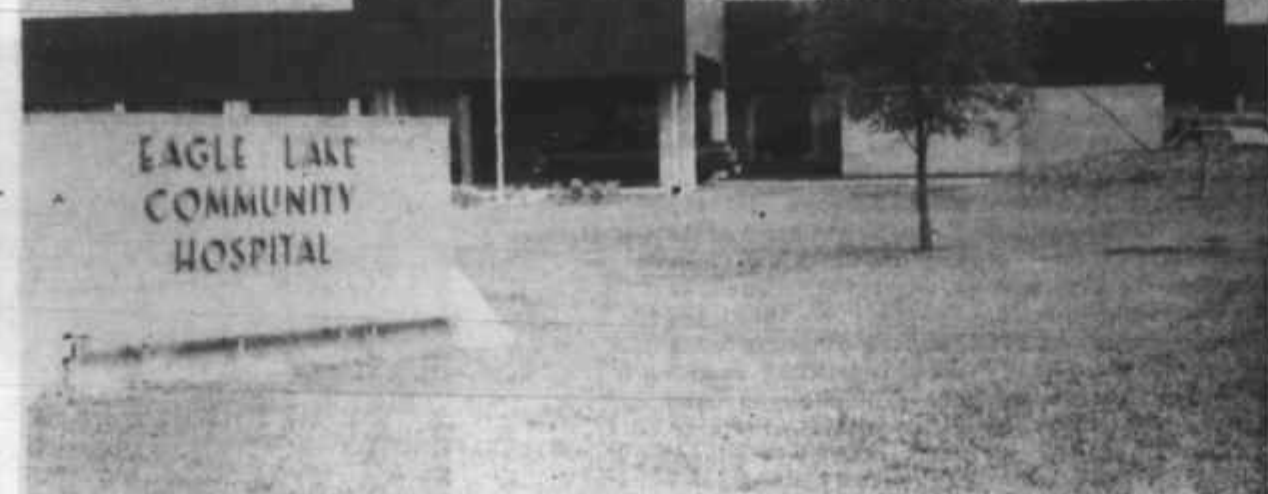
Plans and specifications

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EAGLE LAKE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

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From its inception, First Presbyterian Church, Eagle Lake has placed a heavy emphasis upon Christian education. Mrs. E.W. Hanly was the first teacher in the Sunday School. She continued to teach the faith to generations of members for over 40 years.

In October, 1940 the church organized an outpost Sunday School at Matthews, Texas. Classes were held there from 1940-1955 under the leadership of Mrs. Louise Brunner and assisted by Mr. A.J. Struss. In 1955 the members of the outpost voted to discontinue meetings at Matthews and go to Eagle Lake for services and Sunday School.

Vacation Bible School has been an annual educational project of the church from 1950 to the present. Since 1973, First Presbyterian has joined with other local churches to conduct a community Bible School during the summer months.

Without a doubt, the driving force in First Presbyterian Church has been the Women of the Church, formerly called the Women's Auxiliary. They were organized at the same time as the church. They began meeting with three members, but as the church grew so did the women's group. Upon completion of the sanctuary, they began meeting on Tuesdays, a custom which is still observed.

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First Presbyterian Church has been served ably over the years by a number of dedicated pastors. In the early days the church had to rely on supply pastors. These men

Cooper (Treasurer), Mr. William "Ted" Brunner, Sr., Mr. George R. Burke, Jr., Mrs. J.H. Clipson, Jr., Mrs. William Kemper (President, Women of the Church), Mr. Davis R. Waddell, and Mr. Raymond Waddell.

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First Presbyterian Church Celebrating Our Past — Anticipating Our Future

At the time of the organization of what would some day be First Presbyterian Church, Eagle Lake was still cleaning up the wreckage from the July 21, 1909 hurricane.

Mrs. E.W. (Luella) Hanly helped to organize a group of area residents in a Bible study. The meeting was held by lamplight because power had not yet been restored to the city. Despite the fact that nearly every home and business in town suffered some damage, attendance was good.

On Wednesday, August 11, 1909, the Reverends L.E. Selfridge of Bay City and G.W. Storey of Houston began holding services in Eagle Lake. Within two days, on Friday the 13th, the congregation was organized with 11 charter members. They were:

Mrs. Nina Via, Mrs. D.B. Smith, Mrs. Lois Metcalf, Mrs. Luella Hanly, Walter F. Brown, Mrs. Walter F. Brown, Mrs. B.C. Smith, E.P. Via, George Redford, James Wright, and Mrs. Ida Mae Ernest. Two of the first children baptized still are members today — Misses Dickey and Jessie Wright.

Services were first held on the 4th Sunday of each month, usually in the homes of the members or at the local movie theatre. Early on, the Methodist Episcopal Church of Eagle Lake offered the use of their sanctuary. By the end of the first year the church had 22 communicant members, a Sunday School of 35 persons and had raised the sum of \$232 to support its mission. The first pastor, Rev. Storey was paid a salary of \$20 and hotel expenses while there each month.

At a congregational meeting on February 23, 1913, it was decided to build a sanctuary. A site was purchased from George Keith in the 300 block of State Street. The building was begun in December of that year. But nature again intervened. Within a week, the worse flooding of the Colorado River in memory wrecked havoc on the entire county. Because of the heavy losses to area farmers, work was discontinued. Work resumed in 1916, the result being a brick building with a seating capacity of about 100. Services are still held weekly in this building.

The church has had three major renovations since its construction. In 1957, an educational building and kitchen were added. This is the area known as the Fellowship Hall today. In 1955, a two-story Educational Building was added. The Fellowship Hall was redecorated and the interior of the sanctuary was reversed, with the en-

trance moved from the front to the side. The sanctuary and Fellowship Hall also were air conditioned at this time. A remodeling of the church property took place in 1974; the major work being the redecoration of the sanctuary. Kinkie glass windows were placed over existing windows. Plush red carpet was installed and a white drapery was hung at the front behind a wooden cross.

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New officers of the Pink Ladies are seated, from left, Viola Zboril, treasurer; Letha Lundquist, secretary; and Sidney Sheldon, president. Back row from left, Willie Moore, Mittie McBride, Barbara Davidson, second vice president; Eunice Frnka, public relations and immediate past president; Eleanor McCreary, vice president, and Jack Harrell, hospital administrator.

Eagle Lake Community Hospital



wishes to express their gratitude for the many services provided by

The Eagle Lake
Community Hospital
Auxiliary
and
Supports the
Revitalization Efforts

Pink ladies hospital's volunteer heart

Pink Ladies - They give of their time and of themselves. The Eagle Lake Community Hospital is indeed fortunate to have a group of ladies as dedicated to a cause as the members of the Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary - more fondly known as the "Pink Ladies."

Since the group's organization in November of 1967 under the guidance of Mrs. W. W. (Carey) Stuart, the ladies have strived to assist with the improvement of services to patients, offer encouragement and support to patients and their families, and assist with the purchase of many of the major pieces of equipment and room furnishings at the

hospital. Prior to its most recent purchases of a fetal heart monitor and mammograph, the auxiliary had donated \$27,332.21 to the hospital. Of outstanding significance is the number of hours the ladies find to serve the citizens of their community. To date the number of hours well exceeds 35,000 and continues

to rise daily as the ladies go about meeting the needs of patients, families and hospital personnel.

The poem "Why Be a Volunteer?" found on this page appears in the auxiliary yearbook and depicts just how the ladies feel about their elected means of service their fellow man.

WHY BE A VOLUNTEER?

It's not for money, it's not for fame;
It's not for personal gain,
It's not for love of fellowman,
It's just to lend a helping hand,
It's just to give a little of self.
That's something you can't buy with wealth,
It's not for medals worn with pride
It's not for that feeling deep inside
It's that regard down in your heart,
It's feeling that you have a part
of helping others far and near
That make you a
VOLUNTEER!