

THE NEW LOOK—This is how St. Mary Hospital of Livonia will look when the addition is completed within the next year. On the left is the new 175-bed unit that will be built on the Levan Road side of the

present building, which is shown on the right. In the new layout, the entrance will be switched from Levan to Five Mile Road.

Regional Affairs

St. Mary To Break Ground On Oct. 25

By W.W. EDGAR

As another step in its continuing effort to keep pace with the population growth in the northwest section of Wayne County, St. Mary Hospital, of Livonia, will break ground for a 175-bed addition on Sunday, Oct. 25.

Coming as a belated birthday gift, the ceremony will mark the 10th anniversary of the hospital and it will be the second expansion of the facility since the hospital was opened late in 1959.

The ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. with Rev. Robert Pomponi, hospital chaplain, officiating. But the Felician Sisters have been celebrating the expansion program ever since the addition was approved several months ago.

THE LATEST addition will change the entire appearance of the hospital. The 175-bed unit will be an extension of the present building toward Levan Rd. and will be built over the present parking lot.

This extension will cause a shift of the entrance from Levan Rd. to Five Mile Rd. and pave the way for a landscaping program in keeping with the modern facility.

The new phase of the expansion program, which is to cost approximately \$800,000, will provide a new five-story building with a complete basement.

It will provide 108 additional medical-surgical beds, 15 special care beds (cardiac care, intensive care and transitional care beds), a 20-bed mental health unit and a 32-bed subacute unit, clinics and an expanded emergency department.

The basement will house a new physical and occupational therapy department, a sub kitchen, a new employee locker room, air conditioning facilities, etc. The expansion also will include the completion of the two existing shells which will expand the operating rooms and the nursery and delivery rooms.

SISTER MARY Columbine, administrator of the hospital, announced that contracts for the project have been awarded to A.Z. Shmina and Sons, general contractors, John Laya Plumbing and Heating Co., and the Cates Electrical Co.

"This is our second expansion in the 10 years the hospital has been available," Sister Columbine related, "and it is a move that we have been looking forward to for almost five years."

"In 1965 we added 44 beds, bringing our total to 212. Of this number we have had to sacrifice 28 beds for the new addition, but we will wind up with 360 beds."

She explained that the 28 beds were being sacrificed to make room for additional clinics, and that the additional facilities will place the hospital among the leaders in the state. When the second phase of the expansion was planned five years ago, the project was turned down, temporarily, by the Detroit Hospital Authority. But the sisters bided their time and the wait has been rewarded.

THE CHANGE in fortunes came when the firm of Anthony J.J. Rourke Co., of New Rochelle, was contracted to make a survey of the entire area. This is the firm that made the survey for the medical center at Harper Hospital in Detroit. In its findings, the Rourke Co. not only approved the 175-bed unit, but stated that to keep pace the hospital should be allowed to go to 600 beds.

"When this survey was completed," Sister Columbine stated, "we had no difficulty getting approval to move ahead with the expansion. 'We will now be in a much better position to serve the community,' she went on, 'with these expanded facilities. And aside from the latest equipment we also need the room.'"

In the decade of its existence St. Mary has compiled an enviable record.

Opened late in 1959 with 178 beds, it went to 100 per cent capacity within the first six months. At the time this was considered phenomenal as other hospitals require at least a year to reach the maximum.

EVER SINCE those early days, St. Mary has run at 100 per cent capacity and has built up a reputation as one of the best conducted hospitals, not only in the state but in the Middle West.

"We had 70 doctors on our staff when the hospital opened," Sister Columbine pointed out, "and most of them are still with us. And our staff now numbers 120."

"It could be a great deal larger," she confided, "but we don't have the beds. As a result we have to keep turning down many fine doctors. With the addition we now will be able to take care of an expanded staff."

Proud of the hospital's growth and its record, Sister Columbine related that patients have been flown to St. Mary from many far away places. On vacations and on business the patients have been stricken and rushed back to Livonia. More than that, friends of Livonia residents in far off places also have re-

quested space from time to time.

"And we're not finished growing," the St. Mary administrator remarked.

"ACCORDING to the Rourke survey our patient load should increase almost 100 per cent. The latest survey figures show us with 10,404 patients in 1967 and this is expected to jump to 20,000 by 1975. And the 1980 figures are much higher."

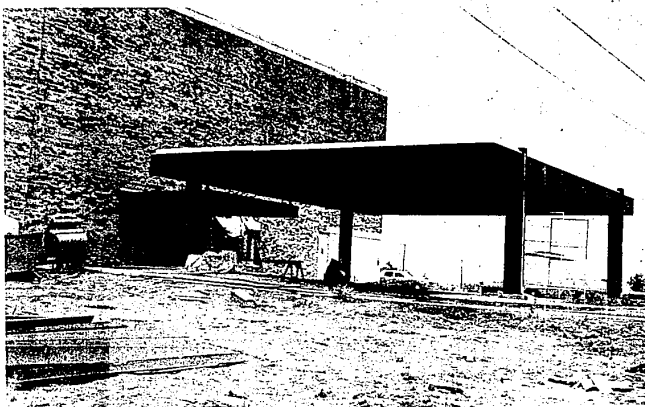
The original hospital was conceived in 1949 when a group of interested citizens approached Mother Januarea, then head of the Felician Order in Livonia. This was before the incorporation of the City of Livonia.

After a rather slow start the hospital became more than a dream when Sister Mary Columbine was appointed to administer the building and operating of the medical facility. Along with Sister Mary Calasanta, they worked diligently until the doors were opened to admit the first patients.

They have been the guiding lights for the past decade and it is through their efforts that the latest expansion has been possible — an expansion that will put St. Mary on par with any other medical institution in the state with a like population.

A Hospital's Growth

	1967	1975
Patients	10,404	20,000
X-ray examinations	28,739	70,000
Laboratory tests	173,618	560,000
Electrocardiograms	3,372	9,000
Emergency room visits	22,849	40,000
Operations	7,320	12,000



EXPANDED EMERGENCY UNIT—Because of the increased need for emergency service, St. Mary Hospital plans to use the south side (facing Schoolcraft) for

the ambulance entrance. This will accommodate more than one vehicle and have an entrance of its own. (Observer photo)



BRING ON THE BABIES—This shell is being completed on the west side of the present building to enlarge the nursery and delivery rooms at St. Mary. Some

of the space also will be used for additional operating rooms. (Observer photo)



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