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Bethinking of Old Orleans

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After the opening of the original Arnold Gregory Memorial Hospital in 1916 it became apparent that the nurses and the other employees needed a place of their own set aside from the scene of the hospital. They needed a place where they would not be confined during their off duty hours, and a place where they could rest with recreation to compensate for their exacting hospital service. Every time this situation was approached, it failed due to the inflated values following World War I.

Then on March 19, 1923 at a special meeting of the Board of Directors in the home of J.R. McGregor a letter signed by the six children of George L. Burrows of Saginaw, Michigan was read offering to finance the building of a Nurses Home to serve the hospital as a memorial to their father. George L. Burrows, a native of Albion, left the area as a young man to successfully make his career in Michigan. He never forgot his home town or early friendships. He was the elder son of Hon. Lorenzo Burrows an early and conspicuous figure in upbuilding Albion, and who also was a representative in Congress, State Comptroller and a Regent of the University of the State bestowing upon him the honor as "father of the common school system of the State." With deepest gratitude the Board of Directors of AGMH accepted the pretentious gift from its six donors who were: Alice B. Beaumont, Elizabeth B. Huntington, George L. Burrows, Jr., Lucy B.F. Morley, Mary Sage B. Fowler and Edwina B. Montague.

A building committee was appointed consisting of John R. McGregor, Schuyler Hazard, Mrs. Helen A. Burrows, Mrs. Elizabeth K. Hart and Alfred W. Woods. Fredrick C. Backus of Buffalo was engaged as the architect and the contract was awarded to Earl J. Sullivan of Albion.

On May 28, 1924 the cornerstone was laid for George L. Burrows Nurses Home located near the old hospital. An address was given on that occasion by Lafayette H. Beach for whom the West State Street children's park in Albion is named.

Probably no finer house has been built in the area during the past sixty years. The best materials incorporated with the finest workmanship were used. The structure is built of yellow brick with a slate roof and features a spacious hall with winding staircase. It was even equipped with gas jets along with electric fixtures for auxiliary lighting.

Lafayette Beach in his address summation spoke as follows: "The erection of this memorial, more beautiful and more eloquent than marble or bronze, because it is dedicated to service, is the tribute of appreciative children to the life of an honored father and to the town of his birth."

During the past twenty years this house has served a variety of purposes as nurses no longer reside on the hospital premises. Although its current function is housing headquarters of COVA, its function as a medical-related facility has never ceased, thereby remaining today a living memorial to George L. Burrows (1836-1921).