



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

New beds at hospital

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Judging from the people in this picture, I trust it was taken 45 or 50 years ago. They are all looking at features of a new bed in the Arnold Gregory Memorial Hospital. New beds at the time were purchased from proceeds of the Albion Rotary Club through a farce play put on by Rotarians.

In the picture from left are: Dr. John G. Ellis, Rotary past president; Sidney Eddy, vice president of the hospital and a past president of Rotary; Helen Yerger, hospital administrator; Edward Archbald, hospital board president and a Rotary past president; Robert Babbitt, project chairman for Rotary and Mrs. Douglas Hayes, superintendent of nurses.

Archbald served as president of the hospital for a number of years. In September 1997, Lysbeth Hoffman, Carlton town historian, interviewed him about his life. He died the following year a little short of his 100th birthday and was the last local survivor of World War I. Here are some

of his comments concerning the hospital:

Hoffman: How many years prior to the present building that was the hospital were you working towards the construction of the new building?

Archbald: About three years. I'd said, I think, if they will raise \$160,000 I'll build you a hospital. We knew darn well it was going to cost \$400,000. So everybody went out and we raised the money. I was tough with them. Like going to see Ward Wilson. He said: "I knew you were coming. We were only going to give you \$50, but we decided we had better give you \$100." I said: "Ward, you haven't got the message. You're going to give me \$1,500. He said: "I am?" I said: "Yes." He said, "Well if you say so then that's what it is."

Hoffman: You see they had respect for you.

Archbald: Then after it was raised, there was nothing that could be done with it. Then a couple of years went by and I saw in the newspaper the governor had passed a bill saying that they would put up new hospitals if you already had

a third of the money. They would put up two-thirds of the capital necessary. So I went to Albany and showed them the article from the newspaper. They said: "Mr. Archbald, you show a budget. How you are going to do it and what's it going to cost." So I sat down and showed what we were going to pay the superintendent. How many nurses we were going to have, what we were going to pay them, the cook, the maintenance guys, the light and heat and power. I wrote it all down. Then I wrote down what we were going to charge per day in the hospital. When it was done we had made \$3,000. I went to Albany and handed it in. They said: "This is the finest budget we ever saw." Here I had never in my life seen one, let alone do one. So we proceeded to build a hospital. I had help from the nurses and the residents. We built the hospital and ran it and we made \$3,000 the first year.

Ground was broken for the hospital in 1950 and the first patients were moved into the new facility in January 1952. The AGMH closed out in 1989.