PHYSICAL FACILITIES

The University of Nebraska Hospital came into existence because of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine so their histories are intimately linked. A very brief review of the beginnings of the College of Medicine is appropriate as an introduction to this History, especially as it relates to the clinical facilities used by the College of Medicine. In September, 1881, a building to house the Omaha Medical College, the progenitor of the University College of Medicine, was completed at 11th and Masons Streets adjacent to the old St. Joseph Hospital (24). Arrangements were made to use the hospital for clinical teaching. In 1886, the Omaha Medical College building was moved to the southeast corner of 12th and Pacific Streets, and in 1893 a three-story building was erected at that site (25). It included six clinic rooms to see patients.

The opening of the College of Medicine at Creighton University eventually resulted in the loss of teaching facilities for the Omaha Medical College at St. Joseph Hospital. However, several other hospitals, Immanuel, Methodist, Douglas County, and Presbyterian were used (74). In April, 1902, an agreement between the University Board of Regents and the Trustees of the Omaha Medical College established the College of Medicine of the University of Nebraska(27). The 1908 University of Nebraska Medical Bulletin, "...emphasized the improvement of clinical facilities in the development of Clarkson, Methodist, and Immanuel Hospital and with the new building of the Douglas County Hospital" (73).

In 1909, the legislature appropriated $20,000 for the purchase of a campus site in Omaha, and land was acquired at 42nd Street and Dewey Avenue. A donation of $50,000 was promised by leading citizens of Omaha to support construction of a hospital and a classroom building, but the money never materialized (41). In 1911, the legislature appropriated $100,000 and a laboratory building designed to house the entire medical college was dedicated October 16, 1913. However, no hospital was built.

Finally, in 1915, Dean Irving Cutter persuaded the legislature that a teaching hospital was essential, and $150,000 was appropriated (76). The first unit of University Hospital consisting of 130 beds was dedicated September 3, 1917 (28). The purpose of the hospital was set forth by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents (52,72).

"The hospital for the University of Nebraska at Omaha is not founded with the idea of receiving patients who are able to pay for special medical and surgical care. Worthy sick, except as hereinafter specified, shall be admitted upon receipt by the hospital authorities of a written application stating that the patient needs medical or surgical attention, and that he is unable to pay for professional services at the hospital."

Throughout much of this history, it will be necessary to refer to locations of various services as well as physical additions to the hospital. Since the Medical Center complex is located on a hill, a decision was made about the time Unit 3 was added to employ a
“level” designation to refer to the various “floors”. This can be quite confusing to anyone who is not familiar with it. The following explanation will help orient the reader and provide a reference source, if necessary, as he or she proceeds through this history.

When the hospital opened in September of 1917, the front entrance of the hospital in Unit 1 faced 42nd Street to the east. The ground level was called the first floor. Steps led up to the actual front entrance which was at the level of the second floor. When Units 3 and 4 were added fronting on 44th Street, the ground level was one “floor” lower than the ground level of Units 1 and 2. The new “level” system designated the floor below the ground level of Unit 3 as level 1, level 2 referred to the ground level of Unit 3. As noted, this is one floor lower than the ground level in Units 1 and 2, so level 3 corresponds to the ground level in those two units. This level concept will be adhered to throughout this history. For those who may research information on Units 1 and 2 cited in this history, references to the first floor in either of those units correspond to level 3 and so on through the fifth floor which will correspond to level 7. Since the level desig-
nation was used when Units 3 and 4 were added, any reference to "floors" in those units should correspond to the level designation.

Dean Cutter recognized the growing need for expanded clinical facilities and requested funds from the legislature, which eventually appropriated $200,000 in 1925, to build Unit 2 of the hospital and increase its capacity to 250 beds. An interesting anecdote concerning this expansion came to light in a letter from Dr. Walter W. Hurmann, a College of Medicine graduate.

"The second unit of the hospital was under construction during the time I was serving as the first resident of Pathology there. When a legislative committee visited the institution during the construction, it seemed imperative that all the beds in the first unit should be occupied, so as to make the necessity of a new wing very obvious. As a result, some of the empty beds were soon filled with interns or student nurses." (72).

The new wing was completed in 1927 but remained closed for a brief period since no funds had been appropriated for operating costs (74). Dr. J. Jay Keegan, Dean of the
College of Medicine, requested an additional sum of $125,000 from the legislature for equipment to be used in the unit, and it was finally opened in 1927 (39).

As early as 1916, the general plans of the College of Medicine envisioned a third hospital unit. In 1939, Dr. F. J. Bean, in an article in “Hospital Management” (3) noted, “Plans had been formulated and presented before the legislature for still a third unit of the main hospital unit, but this being a year of retrenchment rather than expansion, no appropriation was made in the Unicameral session recently concluded.” In the 1940’s, the idea of a third unit was still in existence, but it had lost its status as a hospital wing and for a time included part of the University Clinic, new operating rooms, and new utility spaces (92).

In 1953, the Nebraska legislature passed LB211, appropriating a $6,000,000 building fund for the construction of Unit 3 of the University Hospital. This money was to accrue from a 0.25 mill levy (31). By Nebraska law, no construction could begin until the funds were actually available. A Building Committee chaired by Dr. F. Lowell Dunn, working with Dean Perry Tollman, was to coordinate the building project on campus (83). Various reports contained in the campus publication, “The Pulse” during the years from 1953 to 1958, revealed that the configuration of Unit 3, plus other non-hospital projects to be financed by the appropriations, changed significantly (83,84,85,87,92,93). The prevailing concept of the “Medical Center” during this period, envisioned it as consisting of all the buildings and other entities in the area. In a “Pulse” supplement of February 2, 1956 (92) it was noted that the addition of Children’s Memorial Hospital in 1948 was the begin-
ning of the Medical Center, followed by the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute, Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital, The Doctors Building, and a proposed Children’s Center.

A nursing dormitory, a laundry, and at one point, funding to purchase land for the Children’s Center plus other miscellaneous expenses, came out of the $6,000,000 appropriation before Unit 3 ever got started. A review of all the changing reports as to the facilities to be contained in Unit 3 would be futile. Two building report supplements of “The Pulse”, plus a description of the unit as actually constructed, should suffice. In a special report in May, 1954, a discussion of the “changes” in the plans for Unit 3 briefly documented that the north wing was to contain the University Clinics in 20,000 square feet, Radiology, Clinical Pathology, Surgery, clinical department offices, and research. The center section was to add 180 to 200 beds. The south wing would contain an auditorium estimated at 800 capacity, plus a lobby, seminar rooms, library and business and departmental offices. In the supplement of 1956, Unit 3 was to add sufficient beds to bring the hospital total up to 400, plus a new surgical operating area, a library, an area for student activity, a food preparation and dining area, clinical department space for offices, research and diagnostic teaching, 20,000 square feet for clinics, and a post graduate area, including an auditorium with a 600 seat capacity and sufficient lobby space to permit meetings of smaller specialty societies.

In November, 1958, the Board of Regents issued calls for bids for Unit 3 plus renovations of existing buildings to cost $2,200,000. It was to be done in two phases, Phase I and Phase I A at a cost of $1,800,000 for Phase I and $400,000 for Phase I A. Phase I was to include outpatient clinics, Radiology, Pathology, Clinical Laboratory, Pharmacy, Administration, Medical Records, Social Services, and some classrooms. Phase I A was designated specifically for research, and funding was not to come from the mill levy money but from research and construction grants from outside agencies. A number of projects noted in the 1956 supplement were not included. The article in “The Pulse” reporting the Regent’s call for bids noted, “Future construction needs include a surgical suite, library, food service and dining area, classrooms, student area, auditorium, and a conference center.” No beds were added or even contemplated at that time. A ground-breaking ceremony for Unit 3 was held December 27, 1958 and work on the building started immediately. Construction was completed in 1961 and the unit was occupied in June. At that time, Radiology occupied most of level I with inpatient pharmacy located in the northwest end of that level. The outpatient clinics were on the west side of the north end of level 2 and the emergency room was on the east side. The College of Medicine and hospital administration offices were on the south end. The clinical laboratory, department offices and classrooms occupied the third level.

Before proceeding to the next significant physical change in the hospital, there are two items of historical interest worth mentioning since they could have impacted significantly on the addition of Unit 3. In the spring of 1957, a bill was submitted to the legislature at the request of Governor Victor Anderson to repeal the mill levy which funded the Medical Center Building Fund. It was defeated. In 1959, Senator Terry
Carpenter introduced a bill to remove the $6,000,000 ceiling, and to continue the 0.25 mill levy indefinitely (115). It also was defeated.

In 1963, a 20 year long-range plan was proposed for the expenditure of $35,000,000 for a series of new buildings linked to the hospital plus renovations of old buildings. This included a plan for a new 200 bed acute care hospital on the east side of 42nd Street, north of the Child Savings Institute, connecting to the existing hospital by an enclosed walkway over 42nd Street. This long-range plan was to funded by a 1.0 mill tax levy for two years which would then drop to 0.25 mill for the next five years. It was approved by the Legislative Revenue Committee, but it did not pass the legislature (116).

This plan was apparently conceived by the University Administration without consultation with the College of Medicine faculty. It was presented to the Executive Faculty of the College of Medicine "...as a matter of information...", January 7, 1963 (164). The majority of the clinical faculty were opposed to the plan and two “white papers” were submitted voicing this opposition (43, 164). These were called to my attention by Dr. Edward Holyoke. The plan called for other physical facilities modifications in addition
to the new hospital plus the addition of more full-time clinical faculty. Lack of funding precluded its implementation.

No further physical additions to the hospital occurred for several years. In early 1965, Dean Cecil Wittson proposed a building plan for the Medical Center. It was to include a 200 bed hospital wing with a dietary center and 50,000 square feet of clinic space, a medical amphitheater with a parking tower and a new basic science building and library. Dean Wittson indicated that the reason for not building a larger hospital was that he anticipated, "...using the existing facilities of affiliated hospitals for a considerable part of the clinical instruction for our students..." (129). In 1965, the legislature at the end of its session, approved a six-year capital improvement budget for the University. The College of Medicine's share was to be $7,600,000. Dean Wittson applied for matching funds from the National Institutes of Health. The Health Professional Assistance Act expired June 30, 1965, and the Nebraska application was delivered on that date.

The proposal, as submitted to the National Institutes of Health, called for construction of 200 hospital beds, space for clinics, remodeling of Units 1 and 2, and a new basic science building. The new hospital addition was to be built on top and extend beyond the south side of the existing Unit 3. The 1965 Mid-Summer edition of "The Pulse" noted, "Some interesting features: a maternal and child ambulatorium...an adolescent or obstetrical unit for mothers under 15 years of age...a family practice clinic...a new emergency room and an ambulance entrance on the south side." (121).

Bids for construction of a new hospital unit (Unit 4) containing 189 beds were opened November 30, 1966. The awarded contract was for $5,211,000 (125). A ground-breaking ceremony was held on January 12, 1967, and construction was completed in the summer of 1969. At that time, levels 4 through 7 contained patient rooms as well as some classrooms and offices off the corridors connecting with Unit 2. A new dining area was located at level 3 to the south of old Unit 3 with some connecting private dining rooms on the west side above the new entrance to the hospital. The pharmacy, central supply and the emergency service area were located on the south side of level 2. The emergency room was not occupied until March, 1970. Lastly, a new surgery suite was located on level 1 on the south side. The unit was not totally occupied immediately and documentation of various moves is not available. However, patients were moved into Unit 4 in June, 1969 (18). Some remodeling of the older units was occurring concurrent with construction of Unit 4 (135). Levels 5 and 6 of Unit 2 were remodeled and 38 pediatric beds were opened on those levels on April 28, 1967 (128). It was dedicated as the Herman Jahn Pediatric Pavilion on November 6, 1967 (129).

Subsequently, two other physical additions were made to the hospital between Unit 2 and Units 3 and 4. In 1974-75, a building to house the Ophthalmology department offices, clinic facility, and the Lions Eye Bank was built at level 3 on the south side between Units 2 and 3 (145). In 1981-82, a Solarium for patients was added at the fifth level
between Units 2 and 4 above the Lions Eye Institute with space between allowing for an addition at the fourth level. The Solarium was funded by the hospital auxiliary with money from the gift shop \(^{(176, 177)}\).

Actual bed capacity of University Hospital was virtually impossible to document since no specific records were kept. The Annual Report completed by the Hospital Record Department based on Admitting Office Monthly Reports documented that the hospital had 228 "adult" beds which included the beds in the pediatric units, plus 46 infant cribs, for a total of 264 in 1970. Bed capacity of the hospital has varied as the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) has grown so that it is difficult to assign a specific number of beds to the hospital. In December, 1968, UNMC began an affiliation with the Hattie B. Monroe Home. As a result, 12 beds were added to its official count but these were not included in the figures given above. When they are included, the total becomes 276. The Nebraska Pain Management Center was opened in February, 1973, adding eight previously unused beds to the count. As of July, 1979, beds were discontinued at Hattie B. Monroe Home so these 12 were lost. With modifications and changes in services offered, the July, 1983, hospital count was, Adult 249, Nursery 52, Pain Unit 8 for a total of 309. Review of the annual statistics in subsequent years revealed some variation in specific counts.

In September, 1985, the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute came under the University Hospital adding 74 beds. With the consolidation of the psychiatric departments of the University of Nebraska and Creighton University as of July 1, 1987, \(^{(184)}\) most inpatient cases went to St. Joseph Mental Health Center under the aegis of Creighton University. The development of a geriatric program at UNMC resulted in the opening of a Geriat-
ric Rehabilitation Unit of 30 beds in the previous Nebraska Psychiatric Institute in December, 1988 (187). A “Feeding Disorders Unit” was opened in July, 1988, with eight beds, and there were 14 geriatric psychiatry beds remaining. The Pain Management Program became an outpatient program in July, 1985, eliminating its eight beds. Accordingly, the “official” bed count as of July, 1988, was 353. Lastly, in September, 1990, the Medical Center reached an agreement with Lutheran Medical Center to lease space in its facilities. The unit was called, “University Hospital at Lutheran.” This was later changed to University Hospital East. The Medical Center acquired a 42 bed nursing unit on the fourth floor, a surgery suite and access to various services and equipment (191). At first, 20 beds were staffed when the unit opened September 4, 1990. More beds were opened as staff became available and in a short time, 30 beds were available. This bed capacity remained unchanged through June, 1992. In the year July, 1991, through June, 1992, 1,034 patients were discharged and 5,987 patient days of care provided in University Hospital East.

With the continuing increase in clinical faculty and a doubling of clinic visits between 1967 and 1972, it became obvious that more clinic space was needed. A successful application to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare resulted in an
award of $5,533,900 in 1974 for construction of an Ambulatorium (145) Matching funds were supplied by the State. The construction bid was accepted in September, 1975, and construction started in November (147). During planning and construction, the building was designated as the “Ambulatorium.” Although the name was technically correct, it was felt by the faculty and staff that it might be confusing to the public and the building was ultimately called, “The University of Nebraska Clinic” at the time of its dedication, October 2, 1977 (151,152). The offices of the departments of Internal Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Family Practice, and Pathology, were moved into the building and the majority of outpatient clinics were relocated into it.

The latest major addition to the hospital designated the University Health Care Project, was approved by the Board of Regents in December, 1988 (186). The project was to cost 47.8 million dollars including 6.1 million for a 750 stall parking structure to provide much needed additional parking facilities. It was to include significantly increased outpatient clinic facilities, new operating rooms, plus other needed space. Services to occupy the new facility were documented in the “UNMC News” of October 23, 1992 (188).

Lower Level: Medical material services and pharmacy bulk storage
Level 1: Six operating rooms, main lobby, information booth, outpatient registration, outpatient diagnostic center and medical records
Level 2: Outpatient pharmacy, Orthopedic clinic and Otorhinolaryngology/Audiology clinic
Level 3: Oral Surgery/Adult Dentistry clinic and Family Practice/Employee Health clinic
Level 4: Pediatric clinic and Obstetric/Gynecology clinic
Level 5: Internal Medicine and Surgery clinics

A landing pad with appropriate facilities for the Life Flight Helicopter was to be on the roof.

A number of services were to be moved and/or expanded into space in the hospital vacated by the services which moved into the new facility. The University of Nebraska Clinic building was to be renovated and converted into new faculty offices.

In June, 1993, a committee brought together by Chancellor Aschenbrener recommended the following name changes which were accepted. The new clinic building, which had been referred to as “The University Health Care Project” during construction, was named the “Outpatient Care Center” which it was felt patients could more easily relate to. The existing clinic building was to be called, “The University Medical Associates” (190).

Actual physical moves into the Outpatient Care Center were to occur over a two-week period (190). Surgery was to move to Level I February 26-March 1, 1993. The new Multi-Disciplinary Diagnostic Center, for routine pre-admission, pre-surgery, and outpatient
Above:
Overhead view
UNMC Campus
1993 viewed from
southeast.

Left:
Outpatient Care
Center
tests to Level 1 during March 1-3, and Medical Records to Level 1 March 3-7. Gift Shop
to Level 2 March 6-8, and Outpatient Pharmacy to Level 2 March 10. Lastly, clinic
moves were to occur between March 11 and March 15. All moves went pretty much as
planned. Subsequently, the Outpatient Care Center has served as the major campus
outpatient facility although a few clinics remain in Units 1 and 2. An official dedica-
tion ceremony was held on April 23, 1993 (395).

The provision of outpatient clinical services has been an integral part of the Univer-
sity of Nebraska Hospital patient care since its founding. Historically, the Omaha Medical
College had, "...individual rooms for patients..." (35) in the building at 11th and Mason
Streets. Clinics were also held at St. Joseph's Hospital and after its loss to Creighton
University, clinics were developed at Immanuel, Methodist, Douglas County and Pres-
byterian hospitals (74). As noted earlier, the building erected at 12th & Pacific Streets in
1893 contained six clinic rooms on the first floor (36).

In the 1913-14 academic year, the first two years pre-clinical teaching of the Univer-
sity College of Medicine was moved from Lincoln to the campus at Dewey Avenue and
42nd Streets in Omaha, and the Omaha Medical College building was closed. The
Dispensary, as the outpatient clinic was called, was continued by refurbishing the first
floor of Jacob's Hall at 1716 Dodge Street, and clinics were held there even after Unit
1 was opened in 1917 (75). Following the opening of the South Laboratory building on
the College of Medicine campus, clinics were moved there March 2, 1920 (78) and the
Dodge Street Clinic was closed.
Clinics were conducted in Unit 3 of the hospital after it opened in 1961, however, some clinics were still held in the South Laboratory building until 1963. Ultimately, when Unit 4 opened in 1969, some departments utilized freed space in Units 1 and 2 for offices and some additional clinics were developed in Unit 8 in the space previously used by these departments. In addition, the Lion’s Eye Institute between Units 1 and 2 in 1975 provided clinic space for Ophthalmology. As noted earlier, the increase in outpatient services and faculty led to the addition of the University of Nebraska Clinic building at the northeast end of the hospital, and the new Outpatient Care Center represents the latest extension of outpatient facilities at the Medical Center.

After moving the outpatient facilities to the South Laboratory building in 1920, all subsequent increases in outpatient clinic facilities remained on the campus until 1967. Since that time, there has been a progressive increase in sponsored clinics off the campus. Documentation of much of the following information regarding such outpatient services had to be obtained from multiple sources. These included records from the departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Family Practice, Pediatrics and Otorhinolaryngology, plus the business office of the Dean of the College of Medicine, “The Pulse” and, occasionally, when no other documented sources were available, personal recollection of persons involved.

It appears that the first “off campus” clinic was conducted at the Booth Memorial Hospital starting sometime in 1967 under the auspices of the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Residents rotated in that hospital providing inpatient services, mostly deliveries, and also conducting outpatient clinics for pre and postpartum patients. When the new Booth Memorial Hospital opened in May, 1978, services changed to only outpatient clinics and these ended when the hospital was closed in 1990. A Family Practice Clinic was started at W Street, “The W Street Clinic”, in Omaha in September, 1968, and continued at that location until it moved to the South Omaha Neighborhood Association (SONA) building at 31st and Q Streets in November, 1975, as the South Omaha Family Practice Clinic. Subsequently, that clinic was moved to the Southroads Mall on January 5, 1987, as the Southroads Associates For Family Practice. Most recently, this facility was closed and Family Practice moved to 3304 Summit Plaza Drive in March, 1992, as the University of Nebraska Medical Associates at Summit Plaza. In response to concerns regarding lack of service in South Omaha, a South Omaha clinic was reopened at the SONA building in February, 1992. In addition, Family Practice also started the Harvey Oaks Medical Associates in May, 1985, at Harvey Oaks Plaza, 14610 West Center Road.

A satellite clinic of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology offering maternal and infant care services, known as the Clark Street Clinic, was started at 1728 North 22nd Street in March, 1969. After a robbery of one of the Obstetrics and Gynecology residents at gun point, it was abandoned in the fall of 1980.

The Otorhinolaryngology department started a clinic at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota in 1971. House officers went to the reservation for four
month rotations providing both inpatient and outpatient services. It was discontinued in February/March of 1977 at the time of significant unrest and violent activity on the reservation.

A clinic was started at 3465 Larimore Street in March, 1974 \(^{(140)}\) partially funded by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant. Its association with the Medical Center was apparently rather tenuous and it was closed in 1981 when funding \textit{ran out}.

A clinic for Pediatrics and Maternal and Infant Care was started in 1978 at the Community Plaza Health Center at 25th and Meredith Streets. It moved to the Mercy Fontenelle Center at 4500 Ames Avenue in February, 1982. When that building was sold, it moved to Ames Plaza, 5908 Ames Avenue in February, 1984. Subsequently, the Maternal and Infant Care Service was discontinued and the Pediatric Clinic moved to 5620 Ames Avenue as the Benson Park Medical Associates in June, 1987.

In October, 1989, the Ophthalmology department and the Lion’s Eye Bank moved from the Lion’s Eye Institute to a new location at Dewey Avenue and 40th Streets where outpatient services are rendered. The previous institute structure was renovated and became the University Clinical Cancer Center for outpatient services.

As noted elsewhere in this history, responsibility for outpatient clinical facilities passed to the clinical faculty in 1986. At the present time, University Medical Associates, the clinical faculty’s organization responsible for outpatient clinics as well as other practice matters, sponsors four clinics off campus: Harvey Oaks Medical Associates, Benson Park Medical Associates, University Medical Associates at Summit Plaza, and the Family Practice Clinic at the South Omaha Neighborhood Association building.

Since one of the primary missions of the University of Nebraska Hospital is patient care, a look at the volume of care rendered during the past 75 years is essential to our historical review. The only information available pertaining to the number of patients treated and the number of days of patient services rendered, came from the monthly reports of the Admitting Office and the annual reports of the Record Room each of which were cited earlier in our discussion of hospital bed capacity. With respect to patient care, these records are not complete. No official records could be found covering the years 1917 through 1920. A sheet in a book containing variable old records was found with the following statement written at the top, “Total number of patients admitted to hospital September 3, 1917 to January 1, 1923-9944.” The records from July, 1950 through June 1959 were missing. Such figures as were available are summarized in Table 1. Rather than recording every year, it was elected to report the annual figures at five-year intervals starting at 1917. The 1917-18 figures, obviously, were not available, so the first set in that interval is 1922-23. There are some exceptions to this system and they are noted in the Table. As might be expected, there was an increase in the number of patient served and the number of days of patient service rendered. The number of beds available in the hospital primarily account for the increase between 1927-28 and 1932-33 and between 1967-68 and 1972-73. The subsequent drop in the 30’s and 40’s was due to closure of beds because of lack of state funding. A number of other factors
such as the type of patients served, the size of the attending physician staff, the shift in emphasis from inpatient to outpatient service, plus others beyond the scope of this historical review, have influenced these figures as well.

### UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA HOSPITAL INPATIENT STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>PATIENTS DISCHARGED PER YEAR</th>
<th>PATIENT HOSPITAL DAYS PER YEAR</th>
<th>AVERAGE DAYS HOSPITAL STAY</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
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<tr>
<td>*1921-1922</td>
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<td>35,046</td>
<td>14.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>1922-1923</td>
<td>2,405</td>
<td>35,366</td>
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<tr>
<td>1927-1928</td>
<td>2,834</td>
<td>42,897</td>
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<td>1932-1933</td>
<td>4,789</td>
<td>72,362</td>
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<tr>
<td>1937-1938</td>
<td>3,974</td>
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<tr>
<td>*1959-1960</td>
<td>3,997</td>
<td>40,946</td>
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<td>First year records available after hiatus</td>
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<td>*1991-1992</td>
<td>11,239</td>
<td>82,643</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>Last full year of available records</td>
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* Years not in five-year interval sequence

**TABLE 1** Records of the total number of patients discharged from the University of Nebraska Hospital in one year, the total number of patient days of service rendered in one year, and the average length of time an individual patient spent in the hospital. Figures are presented at five year intervals starting from 1917 except where noted.

Figures pertaining to the number of patients seen in the various outpatient clinics were obtained from several sources. Since these clinics were under the changing auspices of the College of Medicine, the University Hospital, and now the University Medical Associates, during the period from 1917 to 1992, these are reported as University of Nebraska Medical Center Outpatient Statistics in Table 2. Figures pertaining to the
number of patients seen at the Dodge Street Dispensary were obtained for the years 1914 through 1920 excluding 1917 and 1918 from "The Pulse" (77,79) which at that time, apparently, was a student publication. There were no figures available in the hospital record department until 1932-33. A handwritten clinic record ledger was available covering the years 1950-1959 which were void for inpatient statistics as noted above. Subsequent to 1986 when the Clinical Practice Board and, later, University Medical Associates took over the operation of the clinics, the records were compiled in their offices. There are still a few hospital-sponsored clinics, and these records are kept by the hospital. Figures reported in Table 2 for 1991-92 represent a combination of these records so as to produce a figure comparable to those reported in other years. A discussion of the various factors influencing these statistics are beyond the scope of this historical review. The fact that there has been a striking increase in outpatient services is documented in Table 2.

### UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER OUTPATIENT STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>CAMPUS CLINIC VISITS</th>
<th>SPONSORED CLINIC VISITS</th>
<th>TOTAL CLINIC VISITS</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>9,789</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>11,563</td>
<td>11,563</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>13,390</td>
<td>13,390</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>9,643</td>
<td>9,643</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>11,722</td>
<td>11,722</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-1932</td>
<td>No records available</td>
<td>No records available</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932-1933</td>
<td>2,388</td>
<td>2,388</td>
<td></td>
<td>Projected 12 month figure based on 1,791 in eight recorded months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937-1938</td>
<td>2,634</td>
<td>2,634</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942-1943</td>
<td>1,205</td>
<td>1,205</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947-1948</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td>1,254</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951-1953</td>
<td>21,808</td>
<td>21,808</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957-1958</td>
<td>33,989</td>
<td>33,989</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962-1963</td>
<td>46,421</td>
<td>46,421</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967-1968</td>
<td>72,102</td>
<td>72,102</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*1969-1970</td>
<td>90,563</td>
<td>5,055</td>
<td>94,518</td>
<td>First full year record on sponsored clinics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-1973</td>
<td>157,941</td>
<td>5,874</td>
<td>163,915</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-1978</td>
<td>201,915</td>
<td>5,775</td>
<td>207,640</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982-1983</td>
<td>191,949</td>
<td>44,135</td>
<td>236,084</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-1988</td>
<td>228,292</td>
<td>56,813</td>
<td>296,107</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*1991-1992</td>
<td>211,061</td>
<td>43,682</td>
<td>254,743</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Years not on five-year interval sequence.

**Table 2** Record of clinic visits per year. The figures for 1914-1920 cover visits at the Dodge Street Clinic. Figures are at five-year intervals starting in 1932-33 unless otherwise noted. Figures cover number of visits at clinics conducted on the Medical Center campus, the number at clinics off campus sponsored by the Medical Center and the total number of clinic visits in one year.
A brief review of the development of the University of Nebraska Medical Center seems appropriate in this history of the University of Nebraska Hospital. Even though the Medical Center includes more than the hospital, the hospital is an essential and necessary part of the entire Medical Center concept. In the introductory portion of this history and in a number of other places throughout the narrative, relationships between the hospital and the College of Medicine have been discussed and will not be repeated here. The construction of the Children’s Memorial Hospital to the west of the University Hospital across 44th Street in 1948, represented the first addition to the campus in the development of what was to become the University of Nebraska Medical Center. It remained a part of the campus until 1981 when it moved to a new location in West Omaha and the original campus building became the “Swanson Center” housing the Swanson Center for Nutrition and a number of other Medical Center units (179).

The earliest documented reference to the Medical Center concept which could be found occurred in a report of the Building Committee in the supplements to “The Pulse” in February, 1956 (92,93). As can be seen from the following, the concept at that time was quite broad.

“During the past few years we have seen startling progress made in our Medical Center. First there was the Children’s Memorial Hospital next came the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute..., then the Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital...the Doctor’s Building is to be completed in early 1957. These additions represent construction costs in excess of $10,000,000. Added to these are large additions to the Methodist Hospital..., additions to Immanuel Hospital..., and pending alterations in the Lutheran Hospital. At the present time over $2,000,000 is available for the new Children’s Center and the state legislature provided over $480,000 for purchase of the land. These are all affiliated institutions in which the owners have elected to locate the operation in close relationship to the College of Medicine and comprise in totality a regionally important Medical Center, for medical care, teaching and research.” (93).

A new nurses dormitory was included in the buildings to be funded by the 0.25 mill levy (92,93). It was to replace Conkling Hall which had served as a nurses residence since 1923 (98). The building was completed and dedicated in June, 1957 (98). It contained classrooms as well as residence rooms and served as the administrative center of the School of Nursing, later College of Nursing (99), until the new College of Nursing building on the east side of 42nd street was completed and occupied in January, 1976 (148). Dormitory space for nursing students had been discontinued prior to that time.

As noted in the above Building Committee Report, a number of additions occurred during this period which enhanced the concept of the campus as a Medical Center. The Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital building was completed and opened its doors De-
cember 16, 1955 (99). The Nebraska Psychiatric Institute building was dedicated April 30, 1955 (87). The Institute was under the joint sponsorship of the Department of Public Institutions and the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. In 1975, the University of Nebraska Medical Center assumed complete control (146). On July 1, 1985, the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute was incorporated into the University Hospital (23) and no longer existed as a separate institute. As noted earlier in this section, most of the beds for psychiatric patients were shifted to St. Joseph’s Mental Health Center as of July, 1987. The Geriatric Rehabilitation Unit and some geriatric psychiatric beds now occupy the building, as well as a number of other Medical Center programs (184).

In the spring of 1957, construction of a Medical Center Mall was started. The City of Omaha assumed the responsibility to finance the project, “...as a cooperative endeavor and endorsement of the Medical Center as a valuable asset to the community” (97). This involved making 44th Street, from Farnam to Dewey Avenue, into two one-way streets separated by a central island. It was opened with an official dedication on May 31, 1957 (99).

Ground-breaking for what was called the “Children’s Rehabilitation Center” occurred on December 20, 1956 (95). Actual construction did not begin until October, 1957 (100). There were three entities in this Center. The Hattie B. Monroe Home which opened January, 1959 (104). The Omaha Public Schools moved the Dr. J.P. Lord School for the Physically Handicapped to a new facility at 330 South 44th Street in May of 1959, (107) and the C. Lewis Meyer Therapy Center was opened also in 1959.

In May, 1960, the Eugene C. Eppley Foundation announced the award of $2,500,000 grant to the University to be used for the creation of the Eugene C. Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer and Allied Diseases. A building to house the Institute was to be built with a contribution of money from a U.S. Public Health Service Grant and from the 0.25 mill levy building fund (110). The building was completed and dedicated on June 9, 1963 (117). Subsequently, a further gift of $2,000,000 from the Eppley Foundation made possible the construction of another building to house a vivarium for animal care and an area for teaching postgraduate medicine (128). This building was called, “The Eppley Hall of Science” and was dedicated June 22, 1973 (71).

The College of Pharmacy located on the Lincoln campus became aligned with the Medical Center in 1972 when senior pharmacy students began their last year of training at the Medical Center complex (54). Ultimately, State, Federal and private funds were obtained and a College of Pharmacy building was constructed on the east side of 42nd Street next to the College of Nursing, (59) and the College of Pharmacy moved to Omaha. The building was dedicated October 29, 1976 (150).

In 1983, a proposal was made to, and accepted by, the Board of Regents for the construction of a two-lane road extending Emily Street from 45th Street to Saddle Creek Road. The road was to be funded by the City of Omaha, but the University Hospital and the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute were to reimburse the city over a ten-year period (178).
The extension was completed and opened December 17, 1984 \cite{179}.

The new Outpatient Care Center and the addition of five floors to the Eppley Hall of Science represent the most recent significant additions to the Medical Center \cite{193}. The Medical Center purchased the former Booth Memorial Hospital in 1990 \cite{192} and is using that building for administrative offices. In 1989, the Medical Center purchased a building at 38th Street and Dewey Avenue to house the families of transplant patients \cite{189}. The property was leased to the Children’s Transplant Association which renovated it and runs it. It opened as “Potter’s House” in June, 1991 \cite{194}. A Ronald McDonald House to serve as a “home-away-from-home” for families of pediatric patients is under construction at 38th & Jones Streets on property leased from the Medical Center. The facility will be used by all hospitals in Omaha \cite{203}.

Our present concept of the University of Nebraska Medical Center is not documented as it was in 1956. Therefore, it is difficult to define that concept. Physically, the Medical Center consists of the buildings on the campus belonging to the University, including the University of Nebraska Hospital with the former Nebraska Psychiatric Institute, the Outpatient Care Center, The University Medical Associates building, Wittson Hall with the McGoogan Library, Poynter Hall, the South Laboratory building, the College of Pharmacy, the College of Nursing, the Swanson Center, two parking structures, Conkling Hall, the Specialty Services Pavilion, the Shackleford Laboratory building, the Laundry and Bookstore. The Hattie B. Monroe Home, Meyer Rehabilitation Institute, J.P. Lord School and Clarkson Hospital are on the UNMC campus but not owned or under direct control of the University. However, they are geographically present and varying close relationships exist with the University causing them to be perceived by some as a part of the Medical Center. In addition, there are buildings not directly on the campus such as the former Booth Memorial Hospital, the building housing the Ophthalmology Department and Clinic, the Fitness Center and University Hospital East which are considered part of the Medical Center. Lastly, there is the College of Dentistry at Lincoln which is under the jurisdiction of the Chancellor and is considered part of the Medical Center even though it is not in the same city.

As to the University of Nebraska Hospital, its mission has changed significantly in the 75 years from 1917 to 1992 as reflected in its Mission Statement in 1991. “The University of Nebraska Hospital stands committed to providing the highest quality patient care and environment for health, service, education and research.”