

VII: Service League, Red Cross, Altar Guild and Other Benefactors

Clarkson Hospital has been fortunate in that a group of women manifest their interest in the institution by forming the Service League, a volunteer organization whose purpose is to provide support by financial donations which are generated by the various activities of the league.

The first meeting of the league and its foundation occurred at the home of Mildred (Mrs. Robert H.) Storz in 1946. Daisy (Mrs. Addison) Wilson was chosen as the first president. It is of interest that she was the daughter of C.O. Rich, M.D., the faithful secretary of the medical staff for many years. Other founders were Elizabeth (Mrs. I.W.) Carpenter and Marian (Mrs. Drexel) Sibbersen.

Many devoted women served as officers, committee chairmen and workers. In its list of presidents are Mrs. Carpenter, Dana Bradford, Mrs. Chester Cunningham, Mrs. Norman Sample, Mrs. John Lauritzen, Mrs. Warren Howard (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Storz), Mrs. Albert Black and the current president, Kim (Mrs. Bruce R.) Lauritzen, whose husband is the current representative of the Davis family on the Board of Directors.

Four million dollars has been raised by approximately 400 women since the league was organized in 1946. Major items available to patient care through their generosity include two intensive care centers, the Hematology-Oncology Care Center and the linear accelerator for the radiotherapy of malignancies.

Recent professional advances have been supported by their provision of mammography equipment toward the diagnosis of tumors of the breast. Rooms have been decorated, television sets provided and

numerous smaller but important items have been made available in different departments to ensure the most efficacious hospital stays for the patients.

The Service League's major source of funds to the hospital include the annual fashion show, the Gift Shop and annual dues from its members.

Red Cross volunteers--the "Gray Ladies"--distribute patient mail and reading material and assist patients in correspondence. These ladies make a substantial contribution to the comfort of the patients by their quiet and dependable personal services to them.

St. Luke's Chapel in the hospital is maintained by the Altar Guild, an organization of women members of the Episcopal churches of Omaha who are often members of the Service League as well.

All who are cognizant of the activities of these dedicated ladies are most grateful to them.

Contributions to the hospital came from various donors who hold no official hospital position. Some major examples are the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, which contributed toward the Intensive Care Centers, a memorial to Gilbert and Martha Hitchcock in the Radiology Center and a memorial to Dr. and Mrs. C.C. Cris in the Obstetrical Center. Other major gifts included those made to the Cardiopulmonary Laboratory by the Eppley Foundation. Almyra Gordon made possible the Renal Dialysis Training Center in memory of her husband, Alfred W. Gordon. Construction of the Emergency Room was made possible by donations from Mr. and Mrs. Harold D. LeMar.