

Hospitals

Stonewall Hospital submitted by Alice Dawson

In March 1942 the Municipal Doctor Scheme was brought forward to the ratepayers and was carried by a good majority. At this time, Dr. Evelyn had his office in the Bank of Commerce building and from this small, inadequate space he carried on his services. His receptionist Mrs. Mary Philion was most efficient and at all times tried to ease the load of the doctor. Very soon, the citizens decided it was time to create better facilities for the doctor. By now nursing homes were going out of business so it was necessary to concentrate on better facilities.

Many meetings were held between Rockwood and Stonewall Councils. On October 20th, 1950 a vote was taken on a By-Law to build a hospital at a cost of \$69,000.00. This By-Law passed 71% in favor. The site chosen for the hospital was the familiar cricket field. The Department of Health approved a committee with members from both Rockwood and Stonewall councils. The members of the board were: Mr. J. W. Lindsay — Chairman, Mr. B. T. Dawson — Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Hugh Appleyard, Mr. Oscar Buckle, Mr. Jack Inkster, Mr. Ed Mills, Mr. W. J. Stewart.



First Board of Stonewall Hospital. Back Row, L to R: Jack Inkster, Dr. Evelyn, Oscar Buckle, Ben Dawson, Ed Mills. Front Row: Bill Stewart, Jim Lindsay, Hugh Appleyard.

The hospital was completed at cost plus \$14,000.00 for additional equipment. Most of the equipment was paid through donations from interested citizens and a \$3,000.00 gift from Manitoba Pool elevators. This eight bed hospital consisted of semi private wards, a maternity station, physician offices, facilities for dental offices and a full Health Unit.

One of the most outstanding events in the history of Stonewall and district took place Tuesday, March 11th, 1952 when the Rockwood-Stonewall Medical Unit 26B was officially opened. Rev. Maurice Hardman dedicated this new building and at long last a dream had come true to provide suitable accommodations for our medical doctor and staff. On March 17th, 1952 the hospital officially accepted patients.

In charge of this unit were Dr. W. F. Evelyn hospital director and physician, Receptionist Mrs. M. Philion, Matron Miss Eleanor May, assistant matron Miss S. Jardine, Miss Helen Vogt practical nurse, Miss Emily Yankish, maid and Mrs. B. Mills, cook.

The first patient registered at the hospital was Mrs. M. J. Watts and the first baby was a son born to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lindley, Grassmere.

As early as 1950 guilds were formed to carry out the needs of the hospital. The first executive was Honorary President — Mrs. W. F. Evelyn and Mrs. W. Montgomery, President — Mrs. Val Costello, Secretary-Treasurer — Mrs. Ian Kennedy. More auxiliaries were formed in Argyle, Balmoral and Stony Mountain.

In 1951 a purchasing committee was chosen from the different auxiliaries to buy linens and supplies for the operating room namely — Mrs. Ethel Lindsay — Argyle, Mrs. Velma Slater — Balmoral, Mrs. De Witt — Stony Mountain, Mrs. Florence Campbell — Stonewall and Mrs. J. Saundry Co-ordinator.

Groups of volunteer ladies carried on the mending and sewing for the next twenty five years. The auxiliary members received credit for their volunteer hours. The auxiliaries have a three fold purpose: (1)