

THE SIXTIES

1960

- The new LMH administrator, **Irmela Witke**, cautioned physicians to stop enticing nurses and office help away from the hospital, "Remember, we serve your sickest patients and cannot be a training center and employment agency for the 45 offices of the medical staff."
- The hospital becomes clear of debt by paying off the balance on its bonded indebtedness.
- **Admissions totalled 3,176** and cost \$23.21 per patient per day.



April 7, 1962, (l to r) Laura Baba, Joe Newfield, Sr., Emil Bender, Shirley Rempfer and Jeff Litts celebrate at the hospital's 10th birthday party. The children were among the 45 present who were born at LMH in 1952.

1961

- A new X-ray wing was built.
- **Mrs. Clarence Leary** organized the candy strippers to perform volunteer duties.

1962

- LMH celebrates its tenth birthday with assuming a debt of \$250,000 to expand and improve the facility.
- In her state-of-the-hospital report, Administrator Irmela Witke says a good year is one in which you finish with the same employees you start with and thanks **Mas Funamura** (maintenance) **Lydia Weist** (dietary), **Lorraine Pope** (nursing), **Bill Updegraff** (laboratory), Robert Hunnel (pharmacy) and many others.
- A new, two-story wing begins in August and is completed in October. It is used for emergency and radiology on the first floor and eight-private-patient rooms on the second.
- Alice Towne turns over the auxiliary presidency to **Ruby Rinn** who leads the auxiliaries in purchasing \$4,768 of equipment for the hospital.



Plans for new construction got underway again in the late sixties.

1963

- **Overcrowded hospital conditions** force the hospital to turn away patients almost daily causing great anguish to hospital board members and staff, as well as community members. The board applies for \$1.6 million in federal funds to add 60 beds. The hospital must come up with nearly one-half million on its own to make that happen.

1964

- Patients continued to fill the hospital. Many were in beds located in the hospital's hallways. Expansion plans begin.

1965

- **Plans for a new wing** to add 54 beds to the existing 67 beds are completed. Plans also include a "quiet room" and a gift shop.

1966

- Bookkeeping systems were changed forever with the advent of the government-sponsored **Medicare**

insurance program. Its duplicate bookkeeping required extra personnel and filing space to fulfill the rapidly multiplying governmental edicts.

1967

- **\$1 million in loans** were obtained from Farmers and Merchants Bank and the Bank of America to fund the hospital's expansion plans. Craft Construction of Stockton came in with the low bid and started work in late summer.
- Later in the year additional loans were secured to exercise the options of remodeling the surgery, pharmacy, laboratory and central supply departments; also planned is a new intensive-care unit.



View of the hospital in 1964.

1968

- Beds overflowing into hospital corridors prompted the expansion to add the hospital's West wing. An additional 28 beds on the second-floor now brought the hospital's **bed count to 99**. On the first floor, offices and classrooms were added, as were the gift shop and reception area.



Circa 1964, patients lining the corridors demonstrate the need for more space.

- **Pink Ladies**—When the hospital expanded in 1968, a volunteer program began to enhance the hospital's efforts in caring for patients and visitors. Volunteers took on the operation of the gift shop, escorting patients and assisting with clerical jobs.
- Finally able to avail herself of a well-deserved retirement,

Irmela Witke turns over the administrator post to **Richard Sandford**.

1969

- A **merit-rating system for employees** was initiated.
- The hospital is reaccredited for another three years.
- The **hourly rate for nurses jumped to \$3.69**.