

Special 100th Year Anniversary Edition

THE ESMC VISION

A Century of Caring 1904 - 2004

Find Your Winter 2004 Issue of Vision Inside This Special Historic Edition

Reprinted from the
May 4, 1904 *Daily Call*

Excelsior Springs is blessed with many physicians and good ones, too. They are an independent lot, each one of whom wants to build a hospital of his own.

Reprinted from the
July 13, 1904 *Daily Call*

Misses Simpson and Thomas, two graduate nurses of Kansas City, have secured the house in the east end occupied by Mrs. Foster and for the remaining months of the busy season, will conduct it as a sanitarium or hospital. This experiment (sic) will be made a permanent fixture if it proves a paying investment. Here's wishing them success. The Sanitarium is one of our greatest needs and if the ladies mentioned above can supply the want they will deserve the thanks of the community. It will be a place where any Doctor or all Doctors here or elsewhere may take their patients, receiving the same careful consideration. The proposition seems like a winner.

Reprinted from the
November 14, 1904
Daily Call

The New Sanitarium Begun Yesterday with Brief Ceremonies

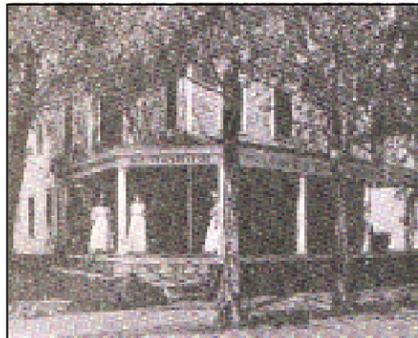
The greatest need of Excelsior for some years past has been that of a Sanitarium. The Call has advocated the necessity and the possibility of a first class institution of this kind and is glad to be at hand when the walls of the new building, dedicated to the relief and cure of sickness and disease, have begun to rise.

In a few weeks the visitor will be pointed with pride to the new

Continued far right column

A Brief History of the First 50 Years

The first Excelsior Springs Hospital building had the cornerstone laid on November 13, 1904, according to a *Daily Call* news article. The new hospital, located on East Excelsior Street, was built by two nurses -- Harriett Simpson and Anne Th-



The first hospital, above, was located at 508 E. Excelsior St. from 1904 through 1907.

ompson. The hospital, which came to be known as the Hospital-on-the-Hill, commanded an enviable position on water tower hill, offering one of the prettiest views of the valley and town of Excelsior Springs.

The building had 17 rooms, including an operating room, and was made available to physicians throughout the city, with Dr. S.R. Keith, physician in charge.

In February 1907, Harriett and Anna

moved the hospital operation to 214 East Excelsior Street, then in 1910 leased the Arlington Hotel property on Spring street (today the Springdale Apartments) and opened the largest hospital in Excelsior Springs at that time. The building had 28

bedrooms, able to provide between 35 to 40 patient beds, doubling the hospital's capacity.

In 1917, Harriett sold the building and furnishings on Spring Street to Mrs. H.J. Close of Kansas City, who operated it as the Lucerne Hotel. The Excelsior Springs Hospital moved to 424 East Broadway, also known historically as The Grant.

In 1918, the hospital moved to upstairs rooms on South street, which later was occu-

piated by Hotel Southern. In 1922, the Old White Sanitarium in Superior Park was purchased. A new brick wing was added in 1923 and the facilities were moved there. The hospital remained at this location for 53 years.

The hospital at this time was operated by a group of local physicians, Drs. J.E. Musgrave, R.W. Prather, J.E. Baird and C.H. Suddarth, who invested \$75,000 in the institution. In 1925, another section was added.

Harriett continued to be affiliated with the management of the hospital until her death on February 11, 1937.

Dr. D.E. Musgrave became the manager and it was placed under the direction of the Excelsior Springs Medical Society, including Drs.

H.J. Clark, Y.D. Craven, D.E. Musgrave, Lerton V. Dawson, E.C. Robichaux, E.B. Robichaux, Roy Prather, S.R. McCracken, John F. Grace and J.E. Baird. Under the present policies, the hospital operated on a non-profit basis.

In December 1941, formal bylaws for governance of the hospital company and regulation and management of its affairs by a hospital board of directors and stockholders were adopted. Mrs. Margaret Sharp, a majority stockholder, served as manager of the hospital. In 1948, Dr. E.E. Gay of Richmond became a major stockholder with Margaret when he acquired the shares of W.C. Westfall.

(See next 50 years on page 3.)



The Hospital was briefly located in the Arlington Hotel, moving there in 1910.



From 1923 through 1977, the hospital was located in Superior Park, pictured above circa 1923.

New Sanitarium

Continued

Sanitarium, which will occupy a commanding position on the hill in the northeast part of town and furnish to the convalescents the prettiest view in all Excelsior. The ceremony of laying the cornerstone was witnessed by about fifty visitors though there was no advertisement of the meeting. Drs. Henry, Wallace and O'Kell made brief talks and Misses Simpson and Thompson each struck a blow on the cornerstone to settle it into place. Rev. Gresham read a scripture selection and offered prayer. A.C. Bush presided over the ceremonies.

The new building is to have 17 rooms, one an operating room and is to be built specially for the work of a hospital. The plans are such that the building can be enlarged whenever the calls upon it are sufficient to justify the addition.

The hearty good will and the ready good word are due from every Excelsior citizen and then the future success of the new enterprise will be assured. Misses Simpson and Thompson have proven themselves capable, trustworthy and efficient and the town welcomes them as home holders and a part of the business interests of the place.

Excelsior Springs Sanitarium

Excelsior Springs Sanitarium
one block east of Presbyterian church - graduate nurses - pleasant rooms and special attention to diet.

July 18, 1904
newspaper ad
Daily Call

ESMC Founder — Harriet Lindsey

Harriet Simpson Lindsey was associated with hospital care in Excelsior Springs from 1904 through 1937.

Mrs. Lindsay and Anna Thomas, graduate nurses of Kansas City, built the first hospital in the city, begun in November 1904.

Mrs. Lindsay was born in Rippling, Wisconsin and while still young moved with her family to Abilene, Kansas. From Abilene, she came to Excelsior Springs in 1901 to make her permanent home.

In 1905, she married Harry Lindsey of Omaha, Nebraska, who died about 1921. They adopted one son, Harry.

Mrs. Lindsay died February 11, 1937. At the time of her death she was the superintendent of the hospital. Complications, including heart trouble, led to her death.

She was active in civic affairs and was affiliated with the Eastern Star order, the D.A.R. and the Methodist Church.

Dedicated Board of Director — Lillian McDavid

Lillian McDavid became a member of the ESMC board in 1960, after becoming involved in the hospital through organizing a Gray Lady chapter for the Clay County Red Cross a year earlier. She has been secretary-treasurer since 1962.

During her term there was seen a continuing process of upgrading the hospital and its facilities including a coronary care and intensive care center and an inhalation therapy center. Mrs. McDavid was instrumental in the securing of MACHPA approval for a new hospital in 1977.

Mrs. McDavid served on the board until her death in 1998. In 2000, her efforts were commemorated with the dedication of the Lillian McDavid Independent Living Center.

Group of Local Physicians Invest More Than \$75,000 in Excelsior Springs Hospital

During the 20's, the hospital was operated by a group of local physicians, C.H. Suddarth, John E. Musgrave, Roy W. Prather, and J.E. Baird.

John E. Musgrave was born in Nova Scotia in 1877. He came to Excelsior Springs from Farmington, IA, and was a clerk in a drug store until 1903, residing with the S.J. Rowell family.

He entered State University of Iowa at Iowa City, then University Medical College of Kansas City, MO. He

and New Mexico, where he visited more than 20 leading hospitals and test institutions of those states. He returned to Excelsior Springs eager to proceed with the enlargement of the Hospital, carried out that fall.

A widely known doctor, Dr. Prather once served as Clay County Coroner and was a member of the Clay County Medical Association. He was a veteran of World War I.

Successful physician and surgeon Dr. J. Ed Baird was born in

ment of Excelsior Springs and was president of the Commercial Club in 1919.

Dr. Charles H. Suddarth, a prominent physician and surgeon, was a native of Clay County, born near Boonville, MO, in 1844.

His mother's activities may have inspired him to medical work. Morning Suddarth cared for and nursed a great many who were wounded during the Civil War. The work she carried on was likened to that of the Red Cross, although she had little assistance.

Dr. Suddarth entered the College of Physicians of Kansas City, KS. He graduated in 1898 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine and practiced at Waldron, MO, until 1902. He was engaged in practice at Smithville until 1917, when he came to Excelsior Springs and set up practice.

Other physicians prominent in the early history of the hospital include Drs. H.J. Clark, Y.D. Craven, Lerton V. Dawson, E.C. Robichaux, E.B. Robichaux, S.R. McCracken, John F. Grace, and Harley I. Galbol.

Guiding Light of the Hospital for Over 15 Years



Margaret Sharp

A surgical nurse, Margaret Sharp became manager of the hospital at its location in Superior Park when she became a major stockholder in the hospital in 1941.

She began planning for a new wing and more modern equipment and was largely responsible for the wing built onto the hospital in 1957.

In 1958, under her management, the hospital became the first in the area to receive accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.

Mrs. Sharp was born in Petersburg, Nebraska. She was a resident of Excelsior Springs for 31 years until her death here in December 1958. She

was married to John W. Sharp of Omaha, Nebraska.

Mrs. Sharp died from injuries received in a fall from an ambulance. She had accompanied a patient to the University of Missouri hospital and fell from the vehicle on its return trip to Excelsior Springs.

In a letter to the Daily Standard after her death, the writer said, "I doubt there is a family in Excelsior Springs who has not felt her tender touch."

Many memorial gift funds were received by the hospital, following her death. In addition to a plaque in her memory, the Special Gifts and Memorials Fund was established by the Board of Directors.



Dr. J.E. Baird



Dr. C.H. Suddarth



Dr. R.W. Prather



Dr. J.E. Musgrave

graduated with a degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1907.

Dr. Musgrave was a World War I veteran. After the war, he returned to practice in Excelsior Springs in partnership with Dr. Roy Prather.

Dr. Musgrave's son, Dr. David Musgrave, followed his father's footsteps to become a doctor. Together they had a combined 70 years of service to the hospital. (See related article, at right.)

Dr. Roy Prather graduated from the medical school of the University of Missouri in 1909. He was a leading force in the development of the hospital and served as the physician in charge.

In the summer of 1925, Dr. Prather took a six week tour of Colorado, Utah, California

Ray County, MO, in 1880.

He attended Northwestern College at Alva, OK, and graduated in the scientific course in the class of 1903. In 1904, he entered the University Medical College of Kansas City and graduated with a degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1908.

He practiced in Pocasset, OK, for five years before coming to Excelsior Springs in 1913 to set up practice.

In World War I, he volunteered and was commissioned captain in the Medical Corps of the United States Army. After the armistice was signed, he was commissioned captain in the Medical Reserve Corps of the United States Army.

He was deeply interested in the develop-

Spa Doctor Made House Calls into the 70's

Dr. David E. Musgrave practiced medicine in Excelsior Springs from 1936 to 1976. He became manager of the hospital after the death of Harriet Lindsey in 1937.

He studied at the University of Missouri, and completed medical school at Northwestern University in Chicago, where he also interned. He received his internal medicine boards in 1946.

Dr. Musgrave helped reorganize the hospital in the 50's and worked very hard on getting the present hospital built.

Until he retired in 1977 at the age of 68, Dr. Musgrave still made



Dr. David E. Musgrave

house calls, day and night.

He was a veteran of World War II, served as mayor of Excelsior Springs, was a member

of the American Medical Association, the Clay County Medical Society and the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Celebrating the Last 50 Years of Progress at ESMC

Ground was broken on the new wing of the hospital in Superior Park on November 11, 1956. The cost of the addition was \$266,770, of which \$118,487 was pledged by supporters of the hospital; state and federal aid amounted to \$102,757; plus a \$20,800 grant from The Ford Foundation. The old frame structure acquired in 1922, was razed upon completion of the new building.

At this time the hospital offered 54 beds, along with a modern Emergency Room, Laboratory and Central Supply, two operating rooms, obstetrical facilities including labor room and delivery room, modern nursery, recovery room, and supporting facilities.

The next significant milestone in the progress of the Excelsior Springs Hospital was a three year accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals on June 27, 1958. The hospital has maintained this accreditation continuously for 45 years.

A Gray Lady Chapter was formed in 1959 under the auspices of the Clay County Red Cross and was quite active for several years. A period of low occupancy because of short-



At left, Excelsior Springs City Hospital ribbon cutting at the 1976 dedication and open house. Pictured from left are Robert Jackson, architect; Robert Skiljan, hospital administrator; William Dunn, general contractor; Mayor Dave Martin; Roy Cramer, president of the hospital board; Lillian McDavid, hospital board secretary; and C.E. King Jr., hospital board member.

ages of physicians in the area, plus new hospitals in Ray and western Clay counties, ended activities of the Gray Lady Chapter.

In 1969, the Excelsior Springs Hospital Auxiliary was formed under the guidance of State Hospital Auxiliary officers and the hospital administrator, Monte L. Fuller. One of the group's first projects was the quest for funds for the intensive care-coronary care unit, which was established and put into operation late in 1969. Since that time they have provided many services for the hospital.

The hospital's most significant challenge came in 1973, when the hospital sought to build

a new facility in order to maintain accreditation. Obstacles presented by the Mid-America Comprehensive Health Planning Agency (MACHPA) threatened the continuation of the hospital. On July 26, 1973, 500 citizens from Excelsior Springs and Lawson attended the agency's meeting to plead for the new hospital.

On January 15, 1974, Excelsior Springs voters passed the hospital plan for a \$3.4 million 65-bed hospital in the largest turnout in the history of Excelsior Springs. On January 16, 1974 the Board of Directors of MACHPA approved the go-ahead for the Excelsior Springs hospital.

Five persons were

appointed to the board of trustees by Mayor Pearl Nance. They were W.S. "Bill" McGinness, a developer and former member of the old hospital board; Claudene Parman, an accountant for the Vencoo Company; C.E. King Jr., a local builder and State Representative; Sam VanPelt, a retired contractor and former mayor of Excelsior Springs; and Roy Cramer, district manager of Missouri Power & Light Co.

On December 19, 1976, more than 4,000 people attended the dedication of the hospital at its present location on U.S. 69 Hwy. and Jesse James Road.

Among those attending the dedication were Sixth District

Congressman Tom Coleman; 10th District State Representative Bob Griffin; 16th District State Representative Vernon King; retiring State Senator William Waters; Chris Clouser, aide to Senator Thomas Eagleton; and Larry Mills, eastern judge of the Clay County Court.

Also present were members of the city council and hospital board of trustees, representatives from the North Kansas City Hospital management team, Lyndon Goodwin, county supervisor for the Farmer's Home Administration which funded the project, and the architect and president of the construction company, William Dunn.

In its first year at the present location, the hospital admitted 1,350 patients who received a total of 9,300 days of care. In addition, there were 115 babies delivered during the first year, and over 400 emergency room treatments.

Since then, ESMC has expanded three times and added many services.

In 1996 it became the first hospital in the state to have a hospital-based assisted living program.

In 2000, the Lillian McDavid Independent Living Center opened.

Most recently, the Hospital received \$761,000 to be used in Outpatient and Wellness Clinic.



Senator Thomas Eagleton and Chuck Anderson perform the ribbon cutting honors at the Convalescent Center's Open House, 1982. It was the first hospital-based skilled nursing facility in Missouri.

Hospital Employees Receive Recognition for Service

Special tribute was paid to Dr. Y.D. Cravens and Mrs. Mayme Hill by the hospital in 1954, at a banquet held at the Excelsior Springs Golf Club.

Dr. Earl Knox, president of the Clay County Medical Society, presented Dr. Cravens with a 50-year service pin, supplied by the American Medical Association. Mrs. Hill received a 35-year-pin.

Mrs. Hill assisted at 4,885 births at the Excelsior Springs hospital from 1942 until she retired in 1953. She assisted at many other births and infant care before 1942 but records for that period were destroyed in flood waters.

When the hospital

was located in the Southern hotel quarters on South street, W.S. "Bill" McGinness, who became president of the hospital board in the 50's, was born there with Mrs. Hill assisting in his care.

In 1942, Mrs. Hill's daughter, Edna "Babe"

Hill, started work at the Hospital. She worked in every department, having served as staff nurse, private duty, O.R. Supervisor, Director of Nurses, and in charge of Recovery Room and the Drug Room.

A 1971 Hospital

newsletter featured a salute to Babe, stating that in 29 years of dedicated service to the Excelsior Springs Hospital, she had never had a day of sick leave.

The combined years of service of the two Hills totaled 64 years.

Reprinted in part from the March 14, 1948 *Daily Standard*

Spa Hospital Stock Bought by Dr. E. Gay

In one of the major real estate transactions completed here in recent months, ownership of 49 percent of the stock in the Excelsior Springs Hospital was transferred from William C. Westfall to Dr. Elmer E. Gay, prominent Richmond physician.

Both the new stock owner and Mrs. Margaret Sharp, hospital man-



Dr. Elmer E. Gay

ager who also owns 49 percent of the stock, an-

nounced that the sale will not change any details in operation of the hospital. Plans for a large addition to the hospital have been made and recently the state board of health approved the institution for a federal grant. Final approval is expected soon from the surgeon-general's office.

Hospital Auxiliary Officers



The first officers of the Excelsior Springs Hospital Auxiliary were installed in 1969 in a meeting at the Clay County State bank. Installing officer was Mrs. W. E. Yancey, right, of Kansas City, auxiliary consultant for the Missouri State Hospital association. The officers are, from left, Mrs. Ralph Haverstock, secretary; Mrs. William

Soper, vice president; and Mrs. C.W. Risley, president. Mrs. Richard Moore, treasurer, was not present.

The first fundraising project for the auxiliary was a spring dance, held at the Elms Hotel on May 15, 1970. Proceeds were used to benefit the coronary care unit of the hospital and toward room improvements.

ESMC 100-Year Timeline

- 1904 - Cornerstone of first hospital laid at 508 East Excelsior street.
- 1907 - Moved to 214 East Excelsior Street.
- 1910 - Moved to Arlington Hotel on Spring Street.
- 1917 - Moved to the Grant Boarding Home at 424 East Broadway.
- 1918 - Moved to South Street.
- 1922 - Old White Sanitarium purchased in Superior Park.
- 1923 - New brick wing added to frame structure.
- 1923 - Hospital moved to Superior Park.
- 1925 - Another section was added.
- 1941 - Hospital reorganized under a board of directors with Margaret Sharp, a majority stockholder, as manager.
- 1956 - Another brick wing was added to the hospital; the framed building was razed.
- 1958 - Hospital received accreditation by Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and has maintained it continuously since then.
- 1969 - Excelsior Springs Hospital Auxiliary was formed.
- 1974 - Voters approved construction of a new hospital in the largest voter turnout in the history of Excelsior Springs.
- 1974 - Board of Directors of Mid-America Health Planning Agency approved the new hospital plans.
- 1976 - The Hospital opened at its present location on U.S. 69 Hwy. and Jesse James Road.
- 1982 - ESMC became the first hospital in



- Missouri to have a skilled nursing facility.
- 1983 - ESMC became the first hospital in the state to provide a Home Health Care Agency.
- 1987 - Outpatient clinics started.
- 1992 - Excelsior Springs Health Care Foundation was formed.

- 1996 - ESMC became the first hospital in the state to have a hospital-based assisted living program.
- 2000 - The Lillian McDavid Independent Living Center opened.
- 2003 - ESMC received \$761,000 for Outpatient and Wellness Clinic.