

Ninety-five years is a long time. It is worthy of diamonds or rubies in an anniversary. Somehow these precious stones seem fitting for the Memorial Healthcare Auxiliary in its 95th year. It has served the hospital, its foundation, and the greater Shiawassee County well over the course of its existence. Our world has changed during this span of time but the one constant has been a group of dedicated auxiliary members who have continued to volunteer their time and talent to ensure the vision of those charter members of 1919. Our 95th Celebration was held in May at an evening event at the Owosso Country Club, with conversation, dinner, and installation of officers.

In July of 1919, 832 women joined together to form the Women's Auxiliary of Memorial Hospital. These women were from Owosso, Corunna, and Judd's Corners. The women worked hard sewing, canning, gathering foodstuffs from neighborhoods for the hospital storage. They prepared the temporary hospital on Pine Street for patients to receive services. In fact, on opening day an 8lb. girl was born, and three surgeries were performed the first week. The temporary headquarters became real on May 1, 1921 as Memorial Hospital officially opened. Patients were first admitted on May 15, 1921. "The building was a splendid monument to those who served in the war. It was imposing in appearance, complete in every detail, and the structure combined useful with the beautiful." A memorial in memory of the illustrious dead of Shiawassee County who died in the great world war during 1917-1918 has been placed outside the hospital for all to visit. An historical montage timeline has been recently placed in the hospital which highlights our existence and is a reminder of the dedication that has gone before us and our role to continue that dedication.

There were 683 babies born in 1945 and among those babies was the first set of triplets born at Memorial Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. John Gleason of Flushing were the parents of two boys and a girl. One of the boys was to be named after Dr. Walter T. Parker, who delivered the triplets on his own birthday. Interestingly enough, genealogy questions brought members of the Parker family to Memorial Healthcare this summer to gain further information about the births and Dr. Parker. And yes, new babies continue to be born at Memorial Healthcare.

The Memorial Healthcare Auxiliary is unique and yet we share many of the same things found at the other hospitals of the MAHA, including luncheons, fundraisers, service projects, and time with area hospitals at district and state functions.

It is fitting that rubies and diamonds represent the 95th Celebration of the Auxiliary. The Diamond is unconquerable and enduring. Many people think the fire in the Diamond symbolizes the constant flame of love. The fiery and captivating Ruby is a stone of nobility, considered the most magnificent of all gems, the queen of stones, and the stone of kings. Many believe it has powers to energize, motivate and clear the mind. As we move forward to our 100th Anniversary the goal remains the same. Our Auxiliary will endure and motivate to render service to Memorial Healthcare and its patients and to assist Memorial Healthcare in promoting good relations in the community.

~Jeannette Smith, President Memorial Healthcare Auxiliary