At the last hospital Auxiliary Board Meeting, there was a discussion about where the name "War Memorial" came from. As your historian, I was asked to look in the records and see what I could find. Many of the old scrapbooks have already been turned over to the Chippewa County Historical Society, but I did come across an old faded copy of a History compiled by Mrs. Raymond Wright in 1979.

In it, she stated that Detroit had the first hospital in Michigan, and Sault Ste. Marie had the second. It was built at the request of Colonel Brady in 1822 at Fort Brady, which is now the site of Lake Superior State University. It was only used for the military, and not for civilians except in cases of extreme emergency. In 1890, the U. S. Public Health Service converted a private home on Ferris Street for use by injured sailors passing through the portage with operations of cargo. When the Power Canal was built, two more homes were converted because the doctors feared an outbreak of typhoid fever in the city. These homes were eventually closed because of unsanitary conditions. A group of local ladies met and made jams, jellies, bandages and held teas to raise money for much needed linens, towels and kitchen utensils. In 1896, five local doctors pooled their resources and bought a building on Dawson Street. It was called Sault General Hospital. The were unable to get trained nurses and were forced to close. For 3 years, there was no hospital in the city. In 1905, the Manito Hotel located on the corner of Spruce and Bingham was leased buy Chase S. Osborn and William Chandler and opened as the The Sault General Hospital.

The Auxiliary at that time had a membership of 10 ladies, who met in the parlor by-monthly to repair gowns and linens and have tea. They also organized a "Linen Shower and Tea" which was held annually until 1942. Admission to this event was an article of linen. They held other events through the years to raise funds for the hospital. At this time members were chosen by the hospital board for life and only ladies with impeccable morals: no smokers or drinkers were allowed.

At the close of World War 1, the Veterans of that war with those of the Civil and Spanish American War decided to raise funds for a memorial to their fallen comrades. After much discussion, and with the assistance of the Hill Burton fund, they decided a Chippewa County War Memorial Hospital would be a more suitable memorial to their comrades than a piece of statuary. In 1921 and 1922 funds were raised and the first part of the present hospital was built. The Faulkner Home next door was bought and many of our finest nurses were to graduate from this home. The hospital board raised the Auxiliary membership to 10, choosing ladies from each part of the county. As the hospital grew, so did the Auxiliary, and in 1941 it had a membership of 30. In 1942, the membership asked the hospital board to allow them to appoint their own members, and raised the membership to 60. In 1942 the Visitors Desk was started, and in 1963 the Gift Shop was opened. Through the years since, both the hospital and Auxiliary have grown tremendously. Our membership now numbers over 300 and we have offered many fund raisers, services and gifts to the hospital. There are several amusing stories of happenings through the years that would take too much space here. I will relate them in future issues of the newsletter.

Barb Ludwig, Historian