

# Saint John's Physicians Alumni Association<sup>1</sup>

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative  
1997 – 2017

By Robert S. Sherins, MD  
Founding Chairman



"In Honor of those dedicated physicians, who so ably served their patients at Saint John's Health Center since 1942"<sup>2</sup>

Copyright Los Angeles, California, 2017

---

<sup>1</sup> The Saint John's Physicians Alumni Association was established in 1997 to promote fellowship and continued scholarship among its members. Officers were elected to promote scholarly programs open to all members of the Saint John's medical staff. In so doing, a continued and enduring relationship will be maintained among its members and Providence Saint John's Health Center.

<sup>2</sup> In March 2014, the Sisters of Providence officially assumed administrative sponsorship of Saint John's Health Center, thereafter known as the Providence Saint John's Health Center, 2121 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90404

## Table of Contents

Title Page	1
Table of Contents	2
Preface by Robert Sherins, MD	3
Essay by Sr. Maureen Craig, SCL	4
In the Beginning by Robert S. Sherins, MD	5
Start Up by Robert S. Sherins, MD	9
Saint John's, Private Specialists Hospital By Robert S. Sherins, MD	19
Exceptional Contributions of the Medical Staff:	
o George (Judd) Hummer, MD	29
o Blake Watson, MD	31
o John Eagan, MD	34
o William Robertson, MD	35
o Harvey Shipper, MD	36
o Leslie Holve, MD	36
o Rodney Smith, MD	39
o Robert M. Sinskey, MD	42
o Evis J. Coda, MD	48
o William Blahd, MD	53
o Oscar Thomsen, MD	54
o JaroslavJ(ay) Marik, MD	55
o Henry Hasserjian, MD	57
o Donald Wagner, MD	60
o Donald Morton, MD	60
o Armando Giuliano, MD	61
o Richard Corlin, MD	61
o William G. Plested, MD	61
o Leonard Marmor, MD	62
o T. Burton Smith, MD	62
o Henry Kawamoto, DDS, MD	63
Historical Images	66
SJPAA Roster 2016	75
SJPAA Programs & Events	82
Gallery Founding Members 1942 - 1952	89
Gallery Alumni 1952 – 2016	97
Gallery SJPAA Events 1997 – 2016	112
Bibliography	126
Postscript	127

## Preface<sup>3</sup>

By Robert S. Sherins, MD



This commemorative manuscript is published for the specific purpose of celebrating the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Saint John's Physicians Alumni Association in 1997 at Saint John's Hospital in Santa Monica, California. It uniquely coincides with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Saint John's Hospital (1942).

As an educational document, this published work is not for sale or profit. The manuscript will reside in public library archives, member's home libraries and online<sup>4</sup> to immortalize the worthy history. It may not be reproduced without the express permission of the author or SJPAA.

The author is indebted to the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, who contributed their invaluable resources; the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Chancery Archives at Mission San Fernando, California; the Bay Surgical Society of West Los Angeles; and the private contributions from numerous colleagues.

I want to acknowledge the invaluable help of many colleagues, who provided histories, photographs and proof reading of the manuscript:

Sophie Andriaschuk, MD  
 Sister Maureen Craig, SCL  
 Robert Gray, MD  
 Henry Hasserjian, MD  
 Les Holve, MD  
 C. Richard Hulquist, MD  
 Henry Kawamoto, MD  
 Jaroslav Jay Marik, MD  
 Fernando Morales, MD  
 James J. Moran, MD  
 Marlene J. Sherins, RN  
 Donald Wagner, MD

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert S. Sherins". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Robert S. Sherins, MD  
 SJPAA Founding Chairman, Editor

---

<sup>3</sup> A free copy of the manuscript: "Saint John's Physicians Alumni Association 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative" by Robert S. Sherins, MD is available online: [www.robertssherinsmd.com](http://www.robertssherinsmd.com). Search the "Books" folder for the pdf file. You may download, print or share the document.

<sup>4</sup>A free copy of the manuscript: "Saint John's Physicians Alumni Association 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative" by Robert S. Sherins, MD is available online: [www.robertssherinsmd.com](http://www.robertssherinsmd.com). Search the "Books" folder for the pdf file. You may download, print or share the document.

## SJPAA Chaplain

By Sr. Maureen Craig, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas



Saint John's Health Center was still a construction site when a young, tall, slender pathologist from the Mayo Clinic came to offer his credentials and ask for a position on staff at the yet unopened hospital. Dr. George Hummer made a good impression on the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth who recognized his keen intellect, creative spirit and exceptional values. Saint John's could not have asked for a better founding physician than Dr. Hummer and the other extraordinary men and women of medicine who followed him.

Excellence calls out to excellence and the doctors who became the founding medical staff of the hospital started a tradition of clinical skills matched by their ethical integrity. Thus began what has become a history that has made Saint John's one of the finest health centers in California, as well as in the nation.

Saint John's became one of the first community hospitals to concentrate on medical and surgical specialties and sub-specialties. As the years passed the hospital became known for its high standards of patient care by staff members. Advances in medicine and technology challenged the medical staffs through the years and they have met that challenge.

Through some tumultuous years the hospital has endured and through the great discoveries and advances in medical research Saint John's has continued to be both an outstanding national institution while preserving the family spirit of a community hospital.

This book tells the story of the medical staff members who have enriched the hospital and our community through their dedication to the oath they took as new physicians. As Sisters of Charity we are most grateful for all they have done and will continue to do to advance the health of all who come to Saint John's for care.

God bless you all,  
Sister Maureen Craig, SCL  
Chaplain, Physicians Alumni Association

## In the Beginning...

By Robert S. Sherins MD

During the Great Depression years of the late 1920-1930s, the Catholic community of Santa Monica, California, made requests of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to build a Catholic Hospital in Santa Monica. His Eminence Archbishop John Cantwell agreed to assist and contacted the Mother General at the Mother House of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas.<sup>5</sup> John Cantwell's aunt Josephine Cantwell had been the 4<sup>th</sup> Mother General of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, so he was quite familiar with the nuns of that order. The project was temporarily placed on-hold due to the severe economic times. However, documents have been discovered from 1936 that attested to the continued interest among the physicians of Santa Monica to build a Catholic sponsored hospital. This commemorative manuscript is being published to preserve the history for future generations of the importance, dedication and contributions of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, and the physicians of the medical staff of Saint John's Hospital in Santa Monica, who so ably attained the most advanced medical practices available for their patients and community.

Included in this manuscript are copies of many of the original documents, correspondence and photographs of the era. The research project took over 30-years and included information archived at the Mother House of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas; the Archdiocese of Los Angeles that were provided through the active support of His Eminence Cardinal Roger Mahoney, Archbishop of Los Angeles, and Monsignor John Weber, Historian and Archivist of the Los Angeles Chancery Records at Mission San Fernando; Saint John's Hospital Administrators including, Sisters Mildred Irwin, Marie Madeleine Shonka, Maureen Craig; and Sister Kathleen Mary Connelly, Archivist of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas.

While considering the importance of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Saint John's Physicians Alumni Association, it became increasingly clear that we, as retired doctors of the medical staff, have been nurtured by the lasting fellowship among us, as well as through the sharing of our academic and medical skills. Our interactions became those of a close, but extended family. As such, we stand on the shoulders of our departed colleagues, many of whom were legendary titans among the founding medical staff since 1942. I wish to record some of their exceptional contributions to the superb achievements of the health care at Saint John's Hospital and to the highest standards of professional skills and innovative technologies that they brought to Santa Monica.

In 1939, Dr. Louis E. Mahoney with colleagues, Drs., Joseph P. Saylin, C.C. Hopkirk, and attorney Herman Debrott sought the assistance of His Excellency John Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles, to build a new Catholic hospital in Santa Monica, California. The doctors privately funded the purchase of land in Santa Monica upon which to build "the Sister's Hospital." In so doing, they assumed bank loans of \$20,000 and gained title to

---

<sup>5</sup> Mother Josephine Cantwell was the 4<sup>th</sup> Mother General of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, after their founder, Mother Xavier Ross.

almost an entire square block of land at Santa Monica Blvd. and 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Streets. It was an ideal location, then belonging to the Golden State Plant and Floral Company. At the time, this was an immense sum of money, equivalent to millions of dollars at today's currency values.



By way of background, the land that became the City of Santa Monica was originally part of the Mexican Land Grant, "Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica" that comprised over 38,000 acres – a vast sum of land between the coastal mountain range and Pacific Ocean and from the region of the Marina del Rey and Topanga Canyon. It was awarded to Francisco Sepulveda in 1839. Due to prolonged drought and subsequent loss of valuable livestock and crops, the heirs of Sepulveda sold the rancho to **Col. Robert Symington Baker**.

Baker married Bandini heiress, Arcadia Bandini de Stearns, a beautiful and wealthy woman. They formed a land company to develop the immense acreage, depending upon water delivered by an advantageously located well in West Los Angeles, presently at the site of University High School. Negotiations for the purchase of the rancho were finalized in 1872, when Baker paid the Sepulveda heirs \$54,000 (\$1.41 per acre).<sup>6</sup>




---

<sup>6</sup> Sherins, Robert S., MD: "Wadsworth Veterans Hospital A Consequence of History." <http://robertssherinsmd.com/files/books/4a-Wadsworth%20Veterans%20Hospital%20Origin.4.pdf>





When Col. Robert Baker died suddenly, Arcadia remarried **John Percival Jones**, former Nevada Senator and owner of the rich Comstock silver mine. Jones purchased 18,000 acres of the former rancho for \$162,000 from the Baker estate. He and Arcadia formed the **Santa Monica Land and Water Company** and brilliantly developed land sales in Santa Monica and West Los Angeles (Brentwood). By gifting 600 acres of their land in West Los Angeles for establishing the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, he and Arcadia insured future sales of residential and commercial properties to the newly arriving staff at the National Home. After 1930, the National Home was renamed the Veterans Administration and is the largest campus for Veteran's Affairs in the nation. Jones became the first Mayor of Santa Monica when the city was incorporated in 1875.

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD

*Mule teams graded the roads for Westgate in 1905. The trees in the background are along what is now Wilshire Boulevard.*



Anges Daily Times Newspaper Advertisement 1905

## Start Up

By Robert S. Sherins, MD



***“Gentlemen, you will be pleased to know... we will establish a hospital in Santa Monica...” Letter from Mother Mary Francesca, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, March 6, 1939.<sup>8</sup>***

His Excellency John Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles, interceded between the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, and the doctors, by assisting in the communications, visits to Santa Monica and finally guaranteeing future costs. The Sisters were fearful of the high building costs in California, while the doctors needed a legal contract with the Sisters to be able to solicit additional funds to build the hospital and to be reimbursed for their substantial land purchase. Archbishop Cantwell was a real hero by guaranteeing the financial costs.

The hospital project required additional assistance. After the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, there were many additional construction problems because of the rationing of tools and supplies. California Governor Culbert L. Olsen (1939-1942) provided the legislative authority to use rationed materials during wartime; the federal government issued a grant of \$40,000 to support completion of the “essential” Saint John’s Hospital. Among local industries, Donald Douglas established the Douglas Aircraft Company, which designed and built military and civilian airplanes in Santa Monica. Douglas required a suitable and nearby medical-care system for his several thousand employees. He gave \$10,000 to the Sisters to provide for the necessary employee health care<sup>9</sup> On several occasions, the Archbishop’s office provided timely donations to the construction project. Local residents were solicited by visiting Sisters, who made door-to-door requests for donations of any size. A committee of local volunteers



<sup>8</sup> Archives of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas.

<sup>9</sup> The Douglas Aircraft Company Plant, 1920

Chelsea & Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, California

(Santa Monica Public Library Digital Archives: 13/0434/0025/143399911)

and many physicians ("**Committee of 100**") contributed much additional funding through their charitable donations and solicitations.

## SANTA MONICA BAY DISTRICT SISTERS' HOSPITAL FUND



### Campaign Leaders

RICHARD J. MORRISON, M. D.  
General Chairman

RALPH F. LAMB  
Chairman Civic Committee

MRS. HARRY E. MAHOOD  
Chairman Women's Committee

LOUIS E. MAHONEY, M. D.  
Chairman Medical Committee

JOSEPH SAYLIN, M. D.  
Chairman Public Relations

### Campaign Executive Committee

Albert N. Ahern  
Morton Anderson  
Otto Apt. D. D. S.  
J. C. Arnout, M. D.  
Harvey Aulbach  
Aubrey Austin  
George W. Bachmann, M.D.  
Hector Baida  
Eugene Biscailuz  
Al Blumberg  
Potter Bowman, M. D.  
Carl G. Bretthauer, M. D.  
Paul R. Burroughs, M. D.  
Malin Campbell  
Frank Carmody  
John A. Clark, D. V. S.  
Thomas J. Clyne  
C. A. Ed. Collins  
Ralph Collins  
Rev. Patrick K. Concannon  
John L. Cook  
Ed. B. Conliss  
Rev. Nicholas J. Conneally  
Thomas J. Cummins, M. D.  
John B. Daniell  
George E. Dasey, M. D.  
A. E. Diebold  
Frank Faye  
Keith C. Flower, M. D.  
Leo Fogel, D. D. S.  
Moe Fogel  
Tom Fox  
Charles Foye  
Dike Freeman  
Rev. E. F. Gates

Robert R. Gillespie, M. D.  
Carl Guercio  
John R. Hansen, M. D.  
Carl Henderson  
Harry C. Henshey  
D. J. Hinchey  
C. C. Hopkirk, M. D.  
Louis H. Jackson, M. D.  
Paul C. Jones  
Raymond A. Karsen  
John D. Keye, M. D.  
Frank Kranz  
Ralph Lamb  
Wyant LaMont, M. D.  
Clayton Lane, M. D.  
Charles O. Laughlin  
Lawrence R. Leidig, M.D.  
Harry Lord  
Leo J. Madsen, M. D.  
Harry Markowitz  
Cooney Marsh  
James J. McCarthy  
Rev. Howard McConnell  
Samuel S. McClure  
Cornelius W. McInerney  
Thomas C. McMahan  
Col. Charles Miles  
Andrew H. Miller  
J. Edward Miller, M. D.  
Ed. R. Millett  
Paul Molloy  
Len Murray  
John Neagle  
W. E. Nichol, M. D.  
Earl Nittinger

George Noonan  
Pat O'Brien  
F. B. Pennell  
Wilbert H. Pervine  
John Peschong, D. D. S.  
Wm. W. Petley  
Rev. Wallace N. Pierson  
Rev. Patrick Piarse  
Eugene Powers  
Leo Pruden, D. D. S.  
Robert L. Pruden, D. D. S.  
Rev. Frederick Pyman  
Verne Reager  
Walter W. Rennie  
Judge Orlando H. Rhodes  
Charles E. Rooney, M. D.  
Robert L. Sands, M. D.  
Russell Sands, M. D.  
J. Philip Sampson, M. D.  
Sam Sarkisian  
John Schumacher  
Art Silvernale  
H. W. Silvernale, D. D. S.  
Bernard Smith, M. D.  
Rodney H. Snow, M. D.  
B. A. Sponberg  
John Steffy, M. D.  
W. Leslie Stevens, M. D.  
Lee Symington, D. D. S.  
Glen Thompson  
John O. Vaughn, M. D.  
Arthur Verge  
Hoit Vicini  
Kenneth Wright, M. D.

### Board of Trustees

HERMAN G. DOBROTT CHARLES C. HOPKIRK, M.D. LOUIS E. MAHONEY, M.D.

RICHARD J. MORRISON, M. D.

JOSEPH SAYLIN, M. D.

Saint John's Hospital Campaign Executive "**Doctors Committee**"

From the Archives of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, 4200 S. 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kansas. www.scls.org.

March 6, 1939

Right Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. O'Dwyer  
333 West 2nd Street  
Los Angeles, California

Right Reverend and dear Monsignor:

Your letter came yesterday afternoon just as I was writing your Most Reverend Archbishop the decision of the Council regarding the proposed hospital in Santa Monica. I am enclosing a copy of the letter to his Excellency so that you may be acquainted with our plans.

I know you will be pleased that we have accepted the invitation of your Archbishop to establish a hospital in his archdiocese; and judging from your kindness to us on our visit to Los Angeles, and the interest you have shown in this matter, I am confident we can always count on your friendship and support.

With my kindest regards, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

*gn. J. J. 7*



Aerial Map of Golden State Plant & Floral Co.  
Santa Monica Blvd & 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Santa Monica, Circa 1912  
(Courtesy of the Santa Monica Public Library)

Golden State Plant and Floral Company  
Santa Monica, California, 1907

Make it your important business  
to order

**Plants, Bulbs and Flowers**

from the



**Golden State Plant  
& Floral Company**

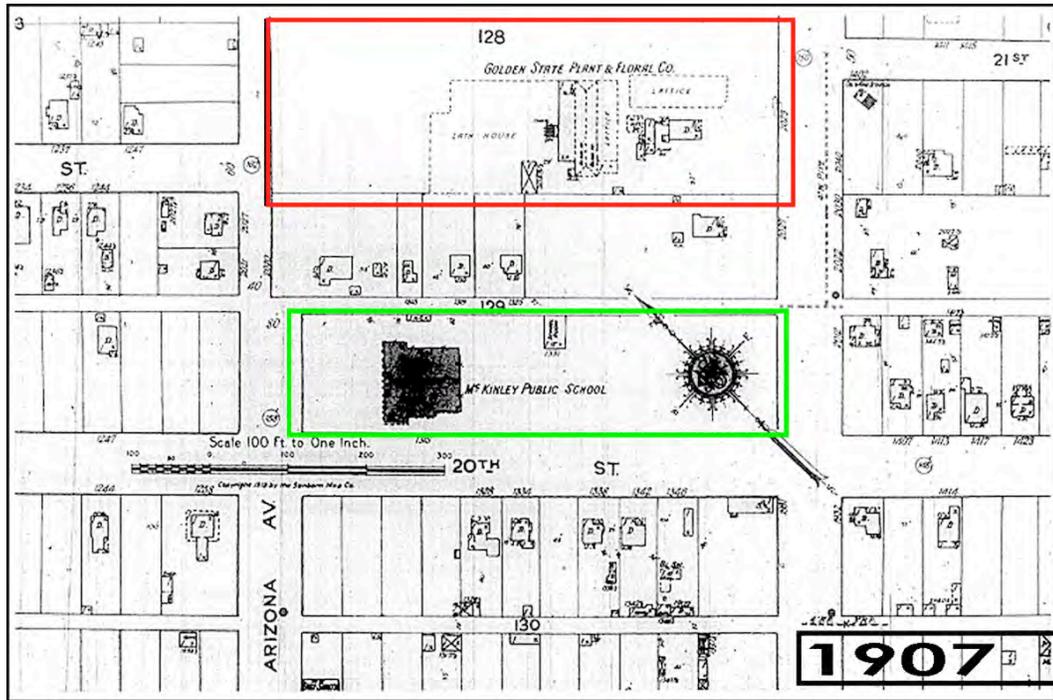
V. E. HATHAWAY, Manager

Home 1209;  
Sunset 242

Cor. 21st and Oregon Ave.,  
Santa Monica, Cal.

Santa Monica City Directory, 1907

From: Santa Monica City Directory, 1907



Cadastral Map of Golden State Plant & Floral Co., Santa Monica  
McKinley School campus 20<sup>th</sup> Street Outlined-Green Marquee

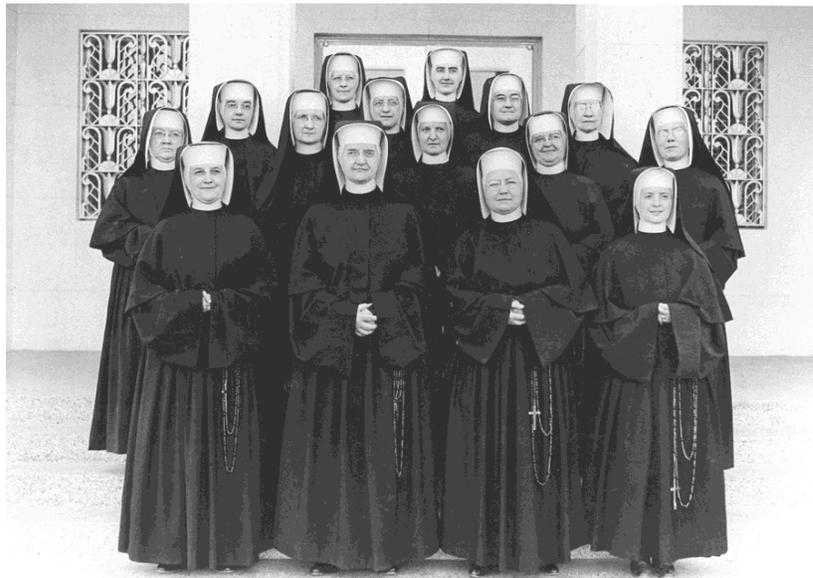


Original McKinley School, 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Arizona, 1908



Ground Breaking Ceremony, 1941

Lt to Rt: Msgr. O'Dwyer, Director Cath Hospitals LA Diocese, Herman Dobrott, Esq., Sr. Mary Hypatia, Luigi Pozzo, Mother Mary Francesca, Msgr. Nicholas Kennelly of Santa Monica Parish, Mrs. Henry E. Mahood, Mr. Loveless (Architect), Sr. Vincent Marie, Richard J. Morrison, MD, Louis Mahoney, MD, C.C. Hopkirk, MD and J. Saylin, MD.



Sisters at Saint John's Hospital, 1942

(Lt to Rt)

Front Row: Sr. Mary Immaculate Desmond, Mother Mary Francesca O'Shea, Sr. Mary Lorian Degan, Sr. Ann Bernard Anderson.

Row #2: Sr. Vincent Marie Berry, Sr. Mary Corona Harrington, Sr. Mary Eunice Murphy, Sr. Mary Hypatia Coughlin, Sr. Agnes Cecilia Fennelly.

Row #3: Sr. Ann Leonard Bestgen, Sr. Margaret Alocoque Crowley, Sr. Mary Damian Harnett, Sr. Louise de Marillac Blain, Sr. Mary Domitila Breen, Sr. Mary Bernard Knipscher.



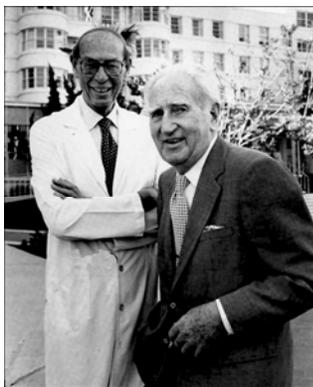
Vigilant Construction Oversight by Sr. Mary Hypatia Coughlin, 1941.



His Eminence, John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles  
Dedication of the New Saint John's Hospital, October 1942



In 1939, **George (Judd) Hummer, MD**, first visited the Santa Monica site of construction of the "Sister's Hospital." He was serving a rotation at the Los Angeles County Hospital during his medical pathology residency in Utah. As such, he was invited to see the construction in Santa Monica. When he witnessed the laying of the cornerstone by the Archbishop, he promised to return in 1942 after the completion of his residency. Dr. Hummer was the first physician at Saint John's and he immediately set about to build an exceptional medical staff from among the practicing physicians in Santa Monica and West Los Angeles doctors. He also created the blood bank that was supervised by the Pathology Department.



Doctor Hummer was soon joined on the staff by a Canadian obstetrician, Blake Watson, MD. They became devoted colleagues and the best of friends, a relationship they maintained throughout their lives. During the early tenure of Sister Mildred Irwin, SCL, Saint John's Administrator, all staff members were required to attain Board Certification by the various specialty academies in order to practice at Saint John's. This revitalized the medical-surgical staff. To maintain staff membership, generalists were encouraged to take the additional training and obtain their "Boards." The action taken by Sister Mildred with Drs. Hummer and Watson, upgraded the credentialing process and skill sets of excellence of the medical staff, providing the path for the future technical advancements that were yet unforeseen. The outstanding reputation of Saint John's Hospital and staff leaped forward and has continued ever since. Saint John's Hospital was one of a very few, if not the only, private

Community hospital in America that was entirely Board Certified and specialized. To this day, as a private health center, Saint John's retains this exceptional distinction.

By 1949, Dr. John Eagan, chair of the medical department, established the first of the annual medical-surgical conferences known as the **Saint John's Post-Graduate Assembly (PGA)**. The conferences initially were held at the Santa Monica Elk's Club and were well attended. The meetings were conducted over 3-days and provided for post-graduate education of the medical staff. The best-informed and acknowledged medical speakers in the nation were invited to present their data. The Sisters, Administrative staff, and local clerics were invited. Each conference was initiated by a formal breakfast. Annual meetings have been conducted ever since.

**SAINT JOHN'S  
HOSPITAL**



PRESENTS  
*THE SECOND  
ANNUAL  
Postgraduate Assembly*

September 11, 12, 13, 1950  
Santa Monica, California

**Saint John's Hospital  
and  
Scientific Exhibits and Exhibitors  
ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS**

Thomas A Havel, M.D.  
John Sheehan, M.D. .... Cytological Diagnosis by Papanicolaou Technique

Robert Kositchek, M.D.  
Mark H. Rabwin, M.D. .... Pheochromocytoma

Daniel H. Levinthal, M.D.  
Thomas A Havel, M.D. .... Low Back Derangement

George J. Hummer, M.D.  
Daniel H. Levinthal, M.D.  
Theodore A. Lynn, M.D. .... Unusual Lesions of Bone

Desiderio A. Roman, M.D.  
Marvin Darsey, M.D.  
John Dillon, M.D. .... Arterial Oxygen Levels under Pentothal Anesthesia

Fred C. Schlumberger, M.D. .... Use of Polyethylene Tubing in Plastic  
Reconstruction of Renal Pelvis and  
Intubation of the Ureter.

Blake H. Watson, M.D. .... Statistical Record of Obstetrical Department

Registration fee, is \$10.00  
All sessions will be held in the Solarium of Saint John's Hospital

★

**COMMITTEE FOR SECOND ANNUAL  
POSTGRADUATE ASSEMBLY  
STAFF OF SAINT JOHN'S HOSPITAL  
SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA**

John C. Eagan, M.D., Director

R. J. O'Donnell, M.D.	R. M. Neale, M.D.
R. J. Kositchek, M.D.	Morris Zack, M.D.
George J. Hummer, M.D.	S. J. Huerta, M.D.

Wm. L. Ross, M.D.

## Saint John's, A Unique Private Specialists Hospital

By Robert S. Sherins, MD

Saint John's Hospital uniquely became a specialist's healthcare center comprised of physicians in private practice. With the cooperation and partnership of the hospital administration and the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, their superb reputation has continued to evolve. This center of medical excellence was mitigated by several historic factors that should be reconsidered.

World War II and the Korean Conflict had an enormous impact upon physicians' training and experiences. The doctors in the military services had been exposed to the exceptional knowledge of specialists from all branches of medicine and surgery. Battle experiences taught the doctors to act quickly as the emergencies were presented and they learned to triage the wounded and dead from the casualties brought directly in from the frontline battle stations. They improvised and attended to blood loss, shock, burns and other extreme emergencies. Well-equipped tertiary hospitals were in the rear locations, so improvisation was the norm to save lives. Triage and transportation from the battlefields were essential to reduce the loss of lives and limbs.

Wartime experiences prepared the retuning civilian doctors for new concepts of specialized health care in private communities. Several additional factors emerged in healthcare, which contributed mightily to the outstanding medical successes that evolved in the community.

We need to backtrack to the American Civil War when President Abraham Lincoln recognized the desperate need to care for the thousands of destitute casualties remaining after the war. Lincoln authorized the establishment of the **National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (later renamed the National Home)**. The Homes would provide the best of healthcare, total physical and emotional support for the disabled veterans and finally burial in a National Cemetery at the end of their lives.<sup>10</sup>

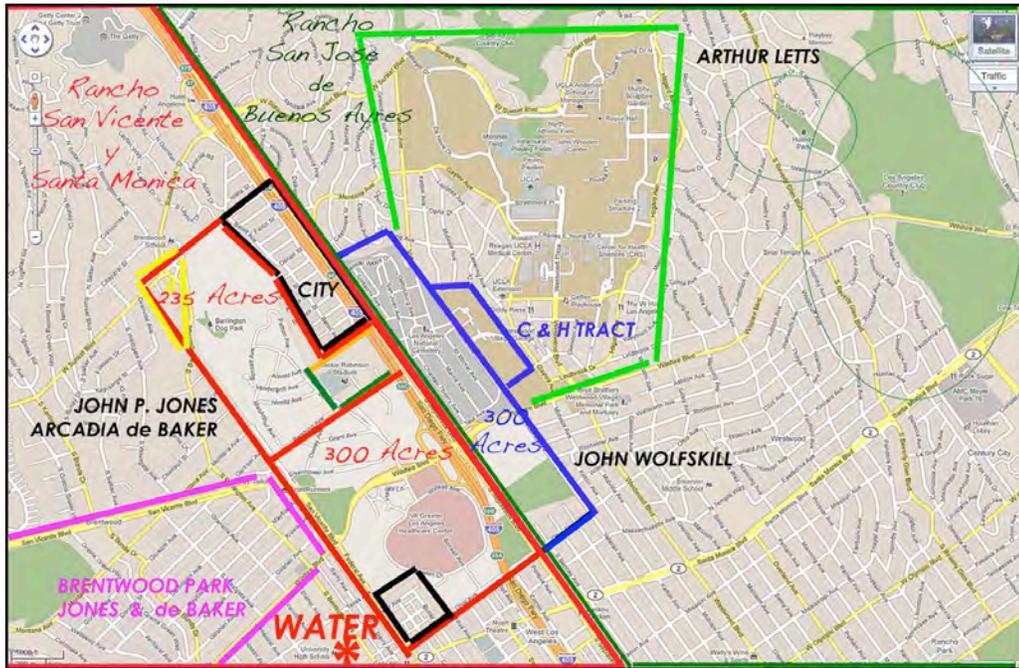
In 1887, former Santa Monica Mayor John Percival Jones convinced the federal governors of the National Homes then meeting in San Francisco, that West Los Angeles would be the ideal location for creating a Pacific Branch of the National Home west of the Mississippi River. Jones gifted 600 acres of the land he purchased from the former Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica. He convinced John Wolfskill to donate an additional 300 acres from the adjacent Rancho San Jose de Buenos Ayres, whose western boundary met at Veteran Avenue. Lastly, Jones donated \$100,000 to pay for the construction of the initial facilities on the Pacific Home campus.<sup>11</sup> Magnificent Victorian style facilities were created including a National Cemetery and the General Patrick H. Barry Hospital.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> The 39th Congress enacted national Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers into law, in 1866.

<sup>11</sup> Julin, Suzanne, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Assessment of Significance and National Historic Landmark Recommendations: <http://www.nps.gov/>, March 10, 2006.

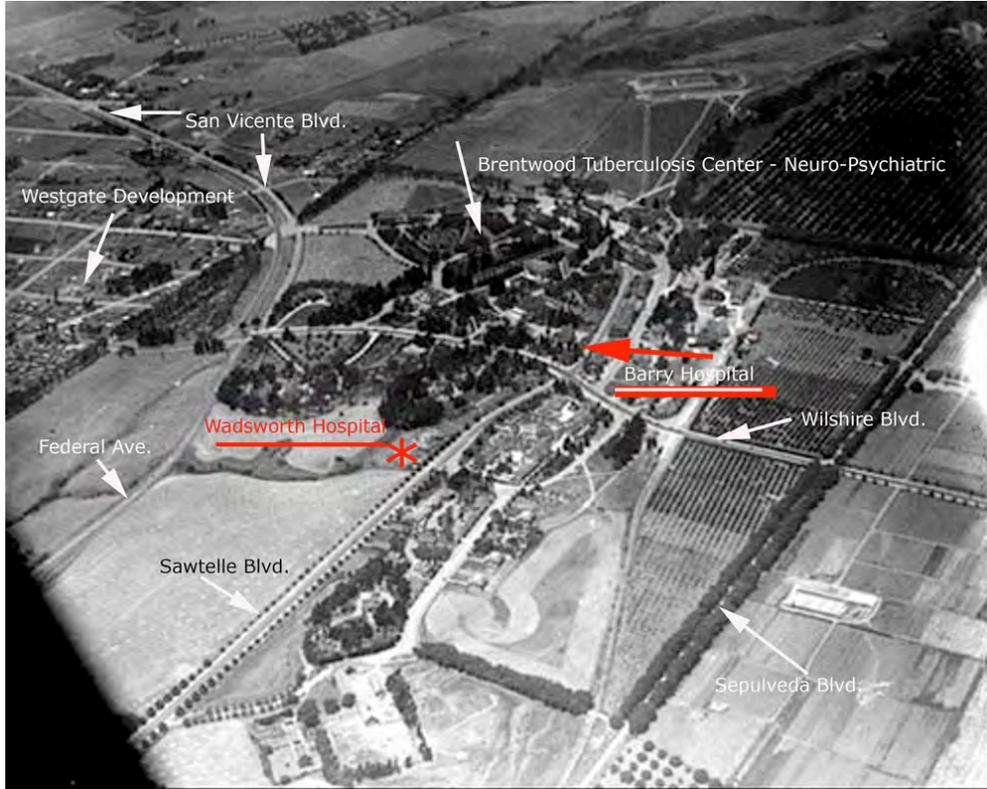
<sup>12</sup> Sherins, Robert S., MD: "**Wadsworth Veterans Hospital, A Consequence of History.**" Self-published, Pacific Palisades, CA: [www.robertssherinsmd.com](http://www.robertssherinsmd.com)



Map of Grants for the Pacific Branch NHDVS, West Los Angeles  
Boundaries indicate grantor of properties



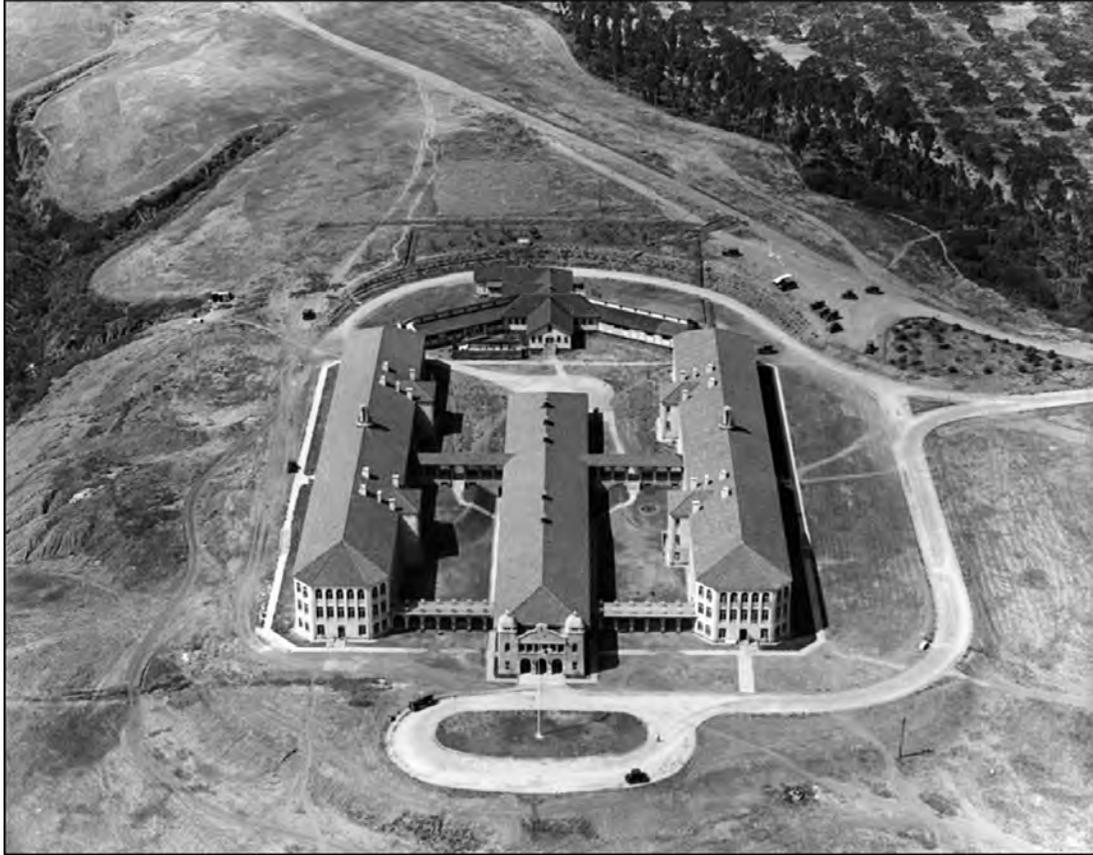
Barry Hospital, Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers,  
Westwood, California



Aerial Map Soldier's Home, Circa 1927  
U. S. Library of Congress Image: <http://www.locweb2.loc.gov> 1960  
LAPL, 1905: <http://www.lapl.org>



James Wadsworth Veterans Hospital, Circa 1926



Building # 156

Former Brentwood N-P, Building #156 ((Robert S. Sherins, MD – 2009)

The second major factor that led to the creation of Saint John's as a specialist's hospital was the funding and creation of the UCLA School of Medicine in 1946. Soon thereafter, Stafford Warren, MD was named Chair of Radiology and Dean of the Medical School. He recruited William Longmire, MD as Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery; John Lawrence, MD as Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine; John Adams, MD as Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics; and Norman Brill, MD as Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry. Many of the remainder of the academic faculty moved to UCLA with the chairmen. Other faculty had been recruited from the nearby Wadsworth Veterans Hospital staff, as well as from the private specialists in the West Los Angeles community. In 1955, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center relocated from Los Angeles to Beverly Hills further augmenting the medical community of West Los Angeles with academic research and a highly specialized medical staff. Santa Monica Hospital had been established in 1926 by Drs. William Mortensen and August Hromadka, which created the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 5 proximate hospital institutions located within a few miles of each other. Their medical staffs were professionally interrelated.

When the UCLA medical school facilities were completed and opened in 1955, an annual stream of extremely well trained residents emerged and joined the private community of West Los Angeles and Santa Monica. Many of those graduates undertook full-time academic research careers at UCLA or went into private practice in the community retaining consultative and attending positions. From 1947 – 1955, the school of medicine operated out of former military Quonset huts, the Wadsworth Veterans Hospital and the medical training programs that had been established at Saint John's Hospital.

Most of the medical staffs of the multiple facilities enjoyed appointments at all of the medical centers. In 1947, **Dr. Leo Madsen**<sup>13</sup> established the Bay (Area) Surgical Society; its membership was comprised of many of the best faculty from each of those institutions. Dr. William Longmire, Chair of the UCLA Department of Surgery, especially supported the society. Fund raising events were scheduled that brought donations of \$50,000. This was a huge sum of money at the time, which was given to Dr. Longmire to provide for the experimental surgical research programs that are described below. Eventually, the clinical applications of heart surgery by Dr. Rodney Smith and HLA tissue typing for transplantation by Paul Terasaki, PhD were brought to Saint John's Hospital further supporting the town-gown interchanges of knowledge and technology.




---

<sup>13</sup> Dr. Leo Madsen was one of the founding staff members of Saint John's Hospital in 1942.



California Governor Earle Warren signing the Appropriations Bill  
Funding the UCLA School of Medicine, 1946  
Courtesy Good Samaritan Hospital, Lowell Irwin, M

**ASSEMBLY BILL****No. 35****Fifty-sixth (First Extraordinary) Session**


---

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. DAVIS, ROSENTHAL, ERWIN, BOYD, ARMSTRONG, BEAL, BURKE, BURKHALTER, CAREY, DICKEY, DILLS, RALPH C., DUNN, GEDDES, KILPATRICK, HOLLIBAUGH, JOHNSON, LYON, LYONS, MIDDOUGH, PRICE, ROBERTSON, AND WOLLENBERG

January 9, 1946

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

---

*An act to provide for a medical school and center at the University of California at Los Angeles, and to make an appropriation therefor.*

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Out of any money in the State treasury not  
 2 otherwise appropriated, there is hereby appropriated to The  
 3 Regents of the University of California the sum of seven million  
 4 dollars (\$7,000,000) to be expended by The Regents of the  
 5 University of California for the purpose of establishing,  
 6 equipping and maintaining a medical school and center as a  
 7 unit in the University of California at Los Angeles.  
 8 SEC. 2. The appropriation made by this act shall be avail-  
 9 able without regard to fiscal years and shall be exempt from  
 10 the provisions of Section 16304 of the Government Code.

California Assembly Bill No. 35, January 9, 1946  
 Granted \$7,000,000 to University of California Regents for the  
 UCLA School of Medicine<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> UCLA Archives, Robert E. Young Library; Ms. Kris Kasianovitz, Social Sciences Library, California State Government Documents Archives.

80TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT  
2d Session } { No. 2133

AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO TRANSFER A PORTION OF THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION CENTER AT LOS ANGELES, CALIF., TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE USE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

JUNE 1, 1948.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed, with an illustration

Mr. ROGERS of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 6716]

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6716) to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to transfer a portion of the Veterans' Administration center at Los Angeles, Calif., to the State of California for the use of the University of California, having considered the same, report favorably thereon, and recommend that the bill do pass.

### EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

This bill grants authority to the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to transfer approximately 35 acres of land located on the Veterans' Administration center, Los Angeles, Calif., to the State of California for the use of the University of California as a research and medical center. The transfer may be made under such terms and conditions as the Administrator may prescribe. It is mandatory, however, that the deed reserve to the United States all interest in fissionable material and provide for reversion of title if the land ceases to be used for the purposes for which it was transferred.

The land on which the Veterans' Administration center at Los Angeles is located was acquired by the Veterans' Administration from the manager of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers under the act of July 3, 1930. Ample room for any possible future development of the center at Los Angeles is available on other portions of the land presently occupied. There is no need for the premises authorized to be transferred by this bill. This property has been

76586—45

Federal Appropriation – H.R. 6716, June 1, 1948  
80<sup>th</sup> Congress, Report No. 2133<sup>15</sup> for Location of UCLA School of Medicine  
Originally part of John Wolfskill's Gift of 34.880 acres (C & H Tract)

<sup>15</sup> UCLA Archives, Robert E. Young Library; Mrs. Maria Jankowska, Social Sciences Library, Federal Government Documents Archives.

	<b>Calendar No. 1584</b>	
80TH CONGRESS } 2d Session }	SENATE	} REPORT } No. 1535

**AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO  
TRANSFER A PORTION OF THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION  
CENTER AT LOS ANGELES, CALIF., TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FOR THE USE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

JUNE 7 (legislative day, JUNE 1), 1948.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MILLIKIN, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the  
following

**REPORT**  
(To accompany S. 2773)

The Committee of Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2773) authoring the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to transfer a portion of the Veterans' Administration center at Los Angeles, Calif., to the State of California for the use of the University of California, having considered the same report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended, do pass.

The amendment is as follows:  
Page 4, line 4, insert after the word "any" the words "oil, mineral or".

**PURPOSE OF THE BILL**

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, subject to such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, to transfer to the State of California for the use of the University of California as a research and medical center and allied purposes a portion of the Veterans' Administration center at Los Angeles, Calif., containing approximately 34.880 acres more or less. The deed shall reserve to the United States all interest in and to any oil, mineral or fissionable material in said land, and shall provide for reversion to the United States if the land ceases to be used as a medical and research center.

In return for the land granted, the University of California agrees to establish a medical school and research center on the premises which will provide valuable aid in the care and treatment of veterans in the Veterans' Administration center at Los Angeles, Calif. The Veterans' Administration has advised the committee that it will have ample room for any possible future development of the center at Los Angeles

Saint John's provided the advanced specialty educational training of new doctors from UCLA 1947-1957. With the cooperation of the federal government, the offices of the Regents of the University of California and the U.S. Veterans Administration, Internships and several specialty residencies were created at Saint John's. The training programs were approved by the American Medical Association. Saint John's medical and surgical staff members participated and were given academic

appointments at the new UCLA School of Medicine and Wadsworth Veterans Hospital in West Los Angeles. The Bay (Area) Surgical Society accepted many local practicing surgeons from Santa Monica, West Los Angeles and Beverly Hills, as well as recently graduated residents in surgical specialists with academic privileges at UCLA and VA in advancing both intellectual knowledge and community fellowship.

The Bay (Area) Surgical Society met 5-times annually and provided for distinguished speakers to update scientific knowledge. Many of the founding members of the Bay Surgical Society were active Board Certified members of the medical staff of Saint John's Hospital. Donations from the Bay Surgical Society provided \$50,000 for the Experimental Surgical Department of the new UCLA School of Medicine. The charitable gift was instrumental in supporting two exceptional technologies. Surgical fellow, **Rodney Smith, MD**, was granted part of the money to begin a program of open-heart surgical research utilizing a "heart-lung machine" to provide for the oxygenation and circulation during surgery. Dr. Smith brought those procedures to Saint John's Hospital. **Paul Terasaki, PhD** UCLA post-doctoral fellow, received the other part of the grant money to pursue research of HLA tissue typing for blood transfusions and human organ transplantations. His discoveries were adopted worldwide

.

Thanks to the contributions of the founders of the Saint John's medical staff and Bay Surgical Society, both of those technologies became vital components of our modern medical-surgical practices.



## Saint John's Hospital Exceptional Contributions By The Medical Staff

By Robert S. Sherins, MD

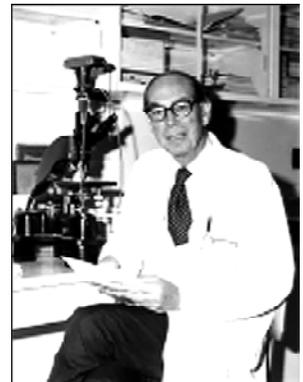
In celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Saint John's Physicians Alumni Association, we recognize that there have been many significant contributions made by members of the medical staff at Saint John's Hospital. Although it is not possible to list all of their accomplishments, I would like to point out a few exceptional instances.

### **George (Judd) Hummer, MD**



In 1939, during his pathology fellowship at the Los Angeles County USC hospital, Dr. George (Judd) Hummer visited the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth when they came to supervise the construction of the "Sisters Hospital" in Santa Monica.<sup>16</sup> He also witnessed the ground breaking ceremony officiated by His Excellency John Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles as he placed the cornerstone of the building. Dr. Hummer was so impressed with the Sisters vision of health care and dedication to the sick that he promised to return to practice pathology at the conclusion of his residency. Dr. Hummer completed his residency in anatomical and clinical pathology at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota in 1942 and kept his promise to return to Santa Monica.

Without modesty, Dr. Hummer had to scrounge for donated furnishings in order to sit down or place instruments on tables in a few rooms set aside for the laboratory at the new Saint John's Hospital. From a printed public telephone book, he called every physician in Santa Monica and West Los Angeles, who might have been eligible as a founding member of the hospital medical staff. He selected each one on the basis of credentials and experience and an interview with him. Thus was formed the first medical staff at Saint John's Hospital.




---

<sup>16</sup> Later on renamed "Saint John's Hospital."

Judd Hummer was a brilliant and congenial physician, who understood the requirements for a professional pathology department and the need to embrace the most advanced medical technologies. He initiated the use of frozen section analysis of surgical specimens that he attained at the Mayo Clinic. This provided immediate diagnosis while the patient was still under anesthesia in the operating room. He created a clinical laboratory with the latest equipment, although the technicians performed most of that work manually. It was years before automated analyses became available.

Dr. Hummer immediately set about to create a blood bank that he had learned to do at Mayo Clinic and at the LA County hospital. There were no refrigerated "banks" for the blood. Instead he created an index card system of names and phone numbers to recall any potential donors selected by the blood type to provide a fresh blood transfusion. Sure enough, as soon as the hospital opened the required transfusion was given to a delivering mother. Dr Hummer's priority for the blood bank's excellence was never forgotten.<sup>17</sup>

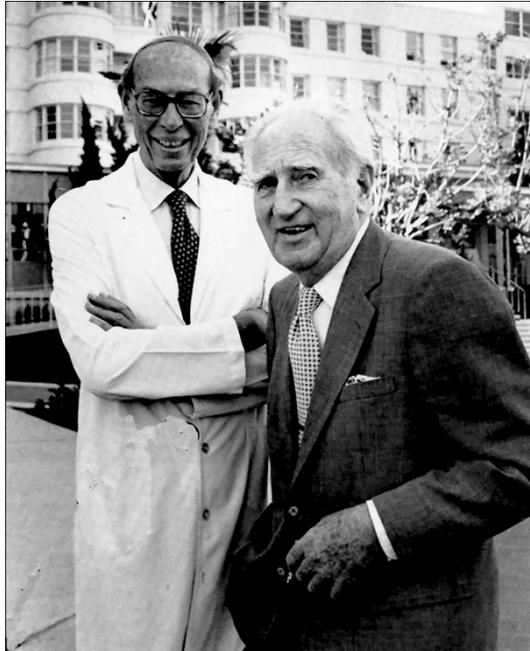
In 1947, Dr. Hummer created a new School of Medical Technology to train pathology technicians at Saint John's. Each class had 6 students that he personally selected and instructed. His graduates attained the highest grades on their national board examinations and most continued to work in his department. With each passing year, the department increased in scope and excellence. He established: the anatomical pathology section including autopsies and biopsies; clinical pathology laboratory procedures; microbiology analyses for bacteria and parasites; hematology analytics; clinical chemistry analyses; and nuclear medicine analyses, which at the early stages of knowledge, Dr. William Blahd brought over from the Wadsworth Veterans Hospital and UCLA, where the first cyclotron was available and the first isotope scanner had been developed by Physics Professor Benedict Cassen. Hepatitis A was a serious viral infectious disease, but only the serum hepatitis specie, type A, was detectable. The laboratory was scrupulous in their attempt to create asepsis to prevent spread of the virus. He required universal use of disposable sharp instruments, blades and needles. Meticulous techniques were instituted with all cases to prevent contamination of hepatitis, Rh blood transfusion exchanges, and later on for HIV. Plasmaphoresis technology was instituted for those specialized complications of disseminated intravascular coagulopathies as could occur rarely in complex labor cases. In those instances it was presumed that fragments of placenta induced widespread coagulation and fibrinolysis, which resulted in exsanguinations from continued and unstoppable hemorrhage. Hysterectomy or radical curettage of the placenta was often tried first, but ultimately plasmaphoresis was required. Plasmaphoresis was also

---

<sup>17</sup> Personal communications between Saint John's pathologist and colleague, Nathalie F. Orlof, MD and author Robert Sherins, MD, 2016.

attempted in cancer and septicemia cases where hemorrhage and fibrinolysis were detected.

As mentioned above, Drs. George (Judd) Hummer (Pathology) and Blake Watson (Obstetrics-Gynecology) promoted the attainment of medical/surgical Board Certification by all members of the Saint John's Medical Staff. This action resulted in the evolution of Saint John's as a private specialty hospital and notably outstanding reputation of its staff that attained the highest professional credentials. As our hospital evolved, the staff gained additional experiences in ever-expanding subspecialty skills.



### **Blake Watson, MD**



Dr. Blake Watson was an exceptional board certified obstetrician and gynecologist trained at University of Manitoba. He graduated in 1932 and spent the next 4 years in several Ob/Gyn residency programs in Europe. In 1933, Dr. Watson took a year of obstetrical residency at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He took another year of obstetrical

residency at the Rotunda National Maternity Hospital in Dublin, Ireland. He then moved to Berlin for his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of residency in gynecological surgery. During his tour he saw Adolph Hitler walking with "Brown Shirts" and asked a colleague to identify Hitler. Blake purchased a fancy Stutz Bearcat convertible to enjoy driving around the country. Soon afterwards, Jewish friends asked Blake to borrow the car so they could escape Germany and seek asylum in Switzerland. A letter later arrived that his friends had arrived in Switzerland, but nobody returned Blake's "Stutz."

Finally in 1937, Dr. Watson completed his 4<sup>th</sup> year of residency in gynecologic surgery at the Allgemeine Krankenhaus Hospital in Vienna, Austria. During that year, a friend of the Austrian National Hockey Team invited Blake to join them. Apparently Blake scored 10 goals in 1 game and the Vienna Newspapers lauded him as the "Superman on Ice!"

Dr. Watson returned to the U.S. and established a private practice in Beverly Hills. When he learned about the new Saint John's Hospital that opened in 1942, he joined the medical staff. He soon partnered with Dr. Judd Hummer to build a superb medical staff. He served as Director of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for 24 consecutive years, the longest term of any physician at the hospital. During his career, he delivered over 10,000 babies, a remarkable feat and in so doing he gained the greatest respect of his colleagues. Later on he learned to relax listening to operatic arias of Enrico Caruso.

The patient's well being and safety were always primary in Dr. Watson's concerns. He envisioned creating an outstanding Ob/Gyn staff. Soon after joining Saint John's, Dr. Watson encouraged colleagues to pursue residencies in Obstetrics & Gynecology. . As well, he accepted residents under his supervision at Saint John's. Prior to 1955, UCLA had conducted its medical training programs at Saint John's until their facilities were completed on the UCLA campus. Many of our alumni studied under Dr. Watson and became board certified in Ob/Gyn in the process: Drs. Ken Cantwell, MD; Klaus Butterman, MD; Charles Segala, MD; Herman Zampetti, MD; and Ezio Zanutta, MD.

Regional spinal anesthesia was first used in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to relieve pain encountered in pelvic surgery. However, its pain relief during obstetrical delivery also stopped labor. Alternative anesthesia was general inhalation using ether, nitrous oxide and oxygen. Under general anesthesia, mothers did not greet their newborn until the next day when the nurse brought the child. Mothers objected to missing the process of the birth and bonding immediately with their child. Caudal block with procaine later was substituted because it was an excellent regional anesthetic and did not stop labor. It was given at the beginning of the "pushing" phase of labor. Due to the potential for the anesthetic to migrate to higher spinal levels, the more favored "epidural" block was instituted. Epidural blocks are now the most effective means of providing pain relief during labor and has advantages of more localized action and anatomical control and more accurate dosing.



As Director of the Department of Ob/Gyn for 24 years, Dr. Watson instituted some unique guidelines by permitting the newer and Board Certified obstetricians to perform the anesthesia during deliveries. If complications occurred during labor or the delivery, the obstetrical anesthesiologist was able to immediately consult or take over the case as the situation required. The general family doctors were extremely grateful for the timely assistance. The advisory assistance techniques were soon utilized at the nearby Santa Monica Hospital, which lowered the complication rates and improved delivery outcomes.

Although the epidural method of introducing spinal level anesthesia had been described by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was not used in labor until the 1960s-1970s. It was Saint John's anesthesiologist, Jack Bauman, MD, who created the classes to instruct the Ob/Gyn staff on the precise epidural procedure.



During Dr. Watson's tenure, other advancements were instituted including a major reduction of the postpartum hospitalization from 10 to 2 days; participation of the father's during labor after they attended with their wives the instructional classes (Lamaze); visitation of the newborn & mother by siblings; introduction of the Fredrick LeBoyer delivery method of quieting the labor room, dimming of lights and immersing the newborn in a body-temperature bath. Dr. Henry Hasserjian adopted the LeBoyer technique and remarked that his just-delivered babies would smile when immersed in the warm water – simulating the recent home of the uterine environment. Later on Dr. Hasserjian trained the fathers to immerse their newborn child in the warm bath water to encourage bonding with the father.

A new advanced newborn nursery was created in the name of "Blake H. Watson, MD Nursery" that included individual newborn monitoring supervised centrally by the obstetrical nurse. In 1991, the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) was established to care for those children born with extreme medical complications.

Dr. Watson directed his attention to the more comprehensive women's medical issues. In so doing, lecture programs, classes and facilities were established to address specific women's matters: weight control and health; smoking; cancer; and family issues. Special gynecological interests evolved regarding female infertility, laparoscopic surgery that reduced incisions and promoted more rapid surgical recoveries; and laser technologies.

## John Eagan, MD



John Eagan, MD was an outstanding Internist. He was one of the founding members of the medical staff in 1942 and was a very highly respected leader. He became the 7<sup>th</sup> President of the medical staff.

Dr. Eagan understood the critical magnitude of continue medical education among the staff. In 1947, to foster advances in medical training, he created the annual Saint John's Post-Graduate Assembly (PGA). The conference sought National and International medical experts as speakers on a wide variety of topics. The meetings were very well attended and lasted for 3-days, including official breakfasts and luncheons.

Over the past 75 years, the topics of the meetings became increasing sub-specialized as advancements in health care evolved. None-the-less, the PGA symposia kept up with those advancements in medicine and surgery. Each annual keynote speaker has been honored by presenting the "John Eagan, MD Memorial Lecture."

## William Robertson, MD



William Robertson MD was a superb neurosurgeon, who served on the Saint John's surgical staff after World War II. He was a delightful gentleman and well respected by all. Unknown to the staff at that time was the fact that he had been an International celebrity at the end of World War II. Bill served in Europe

as a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the **American 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division**. His unit met up with the **Soviet 58<sup>th</sup> Guard** as both advance army forces met at the Elbe River in Torgau, Germany. Bill met **Soviet Lieutenant, Alexander Silvashko** and shook hands when they linked on April 26, 1945 at the disabled bridge over the Elbe River. The link of both advance army units made sensational news, as both became part of the final phase in defeating the German army. Life Magazine first published photographs and stories of their meeting. On the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their meeting (in 1985), Dr. Robertson was invited to attend a reenactment of the event at the Elbe river scene when attention was directed to the shaking of hands of Dr. William Robertson, neurosurgeon, with his counterpart, Soviet General Silvashko.



U.S. and Soviet Army Units meet at the Elbe River, Torgau, Germany<sup>18</sup> - April 26, 1945

---

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.69th-infantry-division.com/memorials/togau/elbe.html>

<file:///Users/robertsherins/Downloads/History%20of%20The%20Fighting%2069th%20Infantry%20Division.pdf>

## Harvey Shipper, MD



In 1954, Harvey Shipper, MD took his residency in Pediatrics at the new UCLA School of Medicine/Hospital. Because the UCLA facilities were still under construction, his training took place at Saint John's Hospital. He had served in the United States Navy during the Korean conflict 1952-1953. Dr. Shipper had the good fortune to study with Dr. Rodney Smith, cardiothoracic surgeon/fellow and Dr. Frank Damon, cardiac surgeon, both at UCLA. He became extremely well trained in the diagnostic procedures involved with pediatric and congenital heart diseases.

Dr. Shipper joined the UCLA faculty and then in 1957-1958 he began his private practice at Saint John's Hospital.

## Leslie Holve, MD<sup>19</sup>



Les Holve, MD also served in the United States Navy during the Korean conflict. Following his service time, he completed his pediatric residency at the UCLA Medical School of Medicine in 1954. His residency took place at St. John's Hospital and, when completed in 1955, the new UCLA Medical School Hospital in the Department of Pediatrics.

After finishing his residency training in mid-1956, he started his private practice with Dr. Milo B. Brooks in Westwood Village. Hospital privileges were at St. John's Hospital, Santa Monica Hospital, and UCLA Medical Center. At the time, Dr. Brooks was working with Dr. Cameron Hall, an orthopedist at St. John's, and the Department of Engineering to fit thalidomide involved children with appropriate limb prosthesis. These problems were precipitated by the tragic outbreak of the Thalidomide Syndrome in 1946-1947. By 1948, it was well documented that when the sedative, thalidomide, was prescribed for women early in their pregnancy they had a high risk of having a child with significant and severe limb deficiencies as well as a few having an associated cleft of the palate. The syndrome was first studied in 1948 at the National Institute of Health, financed by the Cripple Children's Service. Other studies were conducted at the University of Pennsylvania and University of Illinois.

As a pediatrician, Dr. Holve was well acquainted with the naturally occurring familial clefts of the lip and palate as well as the clefts associated with other various chromosomal

---

<sup>19</sup> Personal communications with Dr. Les Holve 2016.

syndromes. Although all clefts had been lumped together, the syndromic clefts have a different and poorer outcome than the usual familial cleft population.

During his early years at St. John's doing general pediatrics, Dr. Holve became acquainted with Dr. Stanley W. Brummett, who was working with Dr. Elise Hahn, PhD., (speech pathologist) to perfect a technique of motion picture x-ray fluoroscopy for documenting the normal swallowing pattern. This became an excellent tool to study the faulty swallowing mechanism of children with clefts. Since this was a primary interest of Dr. Hahn's professional study, the quality of the motion picture was of extreme importance. This took place between 1962-1964.

By 1964, Dr. Hahn, speech pathologist, and Dr. Brummett, radiologist, were working with Dr. Richard Barton, otolaryngologist, Dr. Ben Edwards, plastic surgeon, Dr. Irving Gault, prosthodontist, and Ruel Bench, orthodontist, to form a "Cleft Palate Team". As chief of Pediatrics at that time Dr. Holve was asked to participate as the pediatrician and to bring the "Team" into the Department of Pediatrics for supervision. So started the Saint John's Cleft Palate Team! It is a tribute to Dr. Elise Hahn's, drive and zeal to provide team care for children with clefts in the Southern California region. There was only one other Team in California and it was at the UCSF Dental School.

Dr. Holve rapidly found himself in the role of the Medical Director and with the close support of all the team members formed a cohesive group of specialists to evaluate children with clefts, from newborns to young adults. The team acted as consultants to our colleagues at Saint John's as well as colleagues at other surrounding hospitals and other health services institutions.

The clinic provided a team-approach to first identify the children at birth, provide multiple specialty consultations and develop a comprehensive plan of evaluations and treatments that integrated concepts of optimal aesthetic surgical appearances, optimal dental function and swallowing, good speech and attended to the emotional needs of the children's to become well educated and well adjusted adults. While planning to reduce surgical procedures as much as was possible, none were denied every opportunity to gain normal functioning.

Team meetings were held each month and all the cases seen during the month were discussed in detail by each of the specialists. A team consensus, as to recommendations for care and management, during the next six months to one year was recorded. Later Dr. Holve met with the parents and child to discuss the team's recommendations. All questions that the family had were answered.

The team of specialists that was assembled included pediatricians, radiologists, plastic surgeons, later craniofacial surgeons, dentists, orthodontists, prosthodontist otolaryngologists, audiologists, speech pathologists, geneticists and social workers. Appropriate psychiatric consultations were requested as needed. All of the testing results and therapeutic planning were coordinated with the parents and their regular pediatricians.

The principle members of the first team in 1964 were: Drs. Les Holve (Medical Director, administrator and pediatrician); Stan Brummett (radiologist); Ben Edwards (Plastic Surgeon);

Irving Gault, (Prosthodontist); Ruel Bench (orthodontist); and Richard Barton (ENT). However, by 1970 the team included 20 team members!

Later on, Dr. Janet Salomonson became the lead plastic surgeon when Dr. Ben Edwards retired. All patients were accepted for evaluation and treatment, regardless of medical insurance or charitable needs.

The Los Angeles chapter of the Native Sons of the Golden West supported enormous financial costs for treatments of cleft palate/lip children at Saint John's Hospital. To date



they have donated over \$1,500,000. This organization began in 1875 as a charitable and fraternal society in California, whose purpose was to preserve both the history and structures related to the discovery of gold in 1849. Members must be native Californians, thus qualifying former president Richard Nixon and governors Earle Warren and Edmund G. Browns, who served as NSGW past presidents.

In 1984, Dr. Holve was elected to the office of president of the national society, "**American Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Association.**"

He was recognized for the global attention devoted to the Saint John's Cleft Palate Clinic that approached each child's disorder in a multi-disciplinary manner including the pediatric, surgical, dental, speech and head and neck complexities of the case.

## Rodney Smith, MD



In 1952, Dr. Rodney Smith was discharge from the Army at the end of the Korean conflict. He served his surgical fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at Saint John's Hospital because the modern UCLA hospital facilities were not yet completed. Chief of Surgery, Professor William Longmire, MD, had received a donation of \$50,000 from the Bay Surgical Society membership, which he gratefully accepted to be used to support the Experimental Surgical Laboratory programs.<sup>20</sup> Dr. Smith also had the good fortune of training under Dr. Dr. Frank Damon, cardiac surgeon at UCLA. However his fellowship was served at Saint John's Hospital in nearby Santa Monica. At first, during his training, Rod had to bring the new heart pump and other equipment, as well as the anesthetized dogs from the UCLA Experimental Laboratory. At the conclusion of his training, Rod

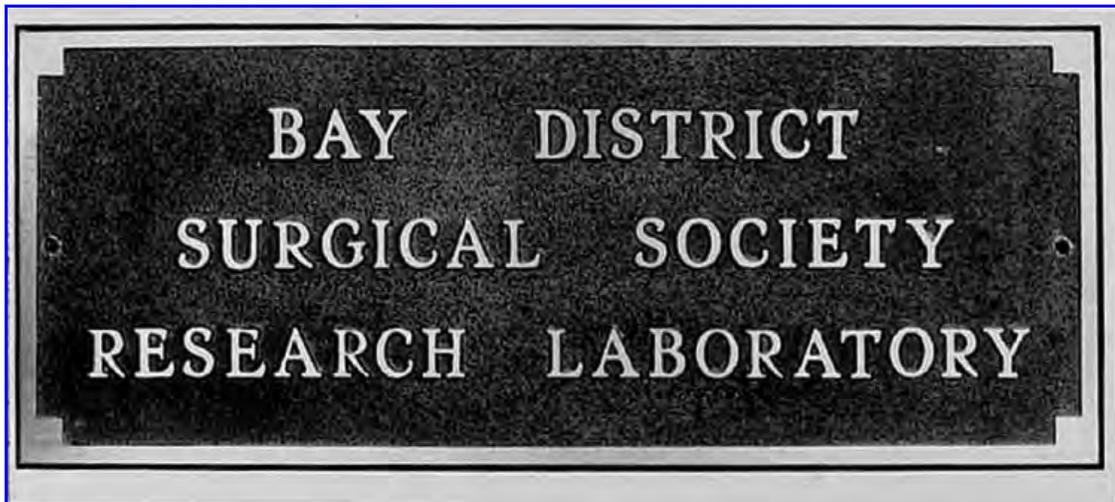
was primed to set up the superb cardiac surgery program at Saint John's Hospital.



Original UCLA Campus School of Medicine  
Military Quonset Huts, UCLA Westwood Campus, 1947-1955

---

<sup>20</sup> Personal communication of Dr. Rodney Smith and Professor William Longmire with author, Robert S. Sherins, MD.



The other recipient of the donated funds was Paul Terasaki, PhD, who discovered HLA tissue typing that was applied to organ transplantation and blood typing. Dr. Terasaki became internationally renowned for his research. By their generous donations, the Bay Surgical Society had funded two exceptional research programs at UCLA that produced far-reaching benefits worldwide in surgery and medicine.

During the Korean conflict, Dr. Smith had served mostly as a frontline surgeon, accepting wounded soldiers directly from battlefield. Because the North Korean military utilized landmines extensively, American casualties suffered greatly from the loss of lower extremities. Dr. Smith not only was exhausted from the demands placed upon him as a military surgeon, but also he was overwhelmed from the huge number of required amputations of limbs of those young men. On one particular occasion, among far too many casualties, Rod was presented with a severely injured young American whose femoral artery had been severed by a landmine. The soldier was facing emergency amputation of his leg. When another young injured patient died in the next cot, Rod decided to take the femoral vein from the deceased and graft it to the injured victim. The procedure saved the leg and the patient's life.<sup>21</sup>

During the 1960s at Saint John's Hospital, Dr. Smith was performing coronary endarterectomy to restore the patency of coronary arteries. This had been a popular procedure at that time. When his patient did not recover well, Rod was forced to re-operate. As was too often the situation, endarterectomy was doomed to failure as a result of excessive inflammation that created total fibrosis and resulted in occlusion of the whole vessel. Dr. Smith noted at surgery that his operated coronary artery had become a thin fibrous strand.



The dilemma was resolved when Rod remembered his previous wartime experiences in Korea. He then resected his patient's saphenous vein and grafted it around the blocked coronary artery (bypass). Not only did his patient survive the coronary bypass, but also he died 5 years later of unrelated disease. In a seemingly routine telephone call placed to Dr. Alfred Blalock,<sup>22</sup> related the details of surgery. Apparently Blalock replied that the report was **very interesting!!!**<sup>23</sup>

---

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Personal communication with Dr. Rodney Smith to Robert S. Sherins, MD. Dr Alfred Blalock, 1899-1964, discovered the Blalock-Thomas-Tausig shunt to relieve cyanosis from children with Tetralogy of Fallot, a congenital heart disease with severe malpositioning of major coronary vessels. Dr. Blalock ushered in modern cardiac surgery.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

## Robert M. Sinskey, MD



Dr. Robert Sinskey was trained at Duke University in North Carolina. He was sent by the US Army to Japan as an ophthalmologist in order to evaluate ocular complications in the post-atomic blast period. He found no significant increase of cataracts or other radiation sequela. Upon return to California, he joined the new UCLA School of Medicine faculty, teaching ophthalmology residents. Prior to 1955, UCLA training was conducted at Saint John's Hospital. He remained at Saint John's in private practice until he retired after age 75, but continued as an attending ophthalmologist and eventually as a full clinical professor at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. During the mid to late 1950s, Dr. Sinskey was instrumental in guiding the Santa Monica Lions Club to organize a program of charitable eye care, the ***Southern California Lions Eye Institute***.

Lions Club members have excelled in their charitable concerns for their communities throughout the world. However, the Santa Monica Lions Club took this concept further. By combining the efforts of 220 of the Lions Chapters in Southern California, they developed an eye-care institute. In past times, Lions dedicated their efforts to sight and hearing preservation. They supported scientific research, as well as providing for the medical and surgical care of the medically needy patients. The concept underlying the establishment of the SCLEI at Saint John's Health Center was focused upon acquiring the most advanced ophthalmic technology, attracting the highest skilled medical and surgical staff at a health care facility where excellence would be pre-eminent. By providing for the upgrading of new technologies and facilities, the SCLEI set the standard of excellent in eye-care at a private community hospital.<sup>24</sup>

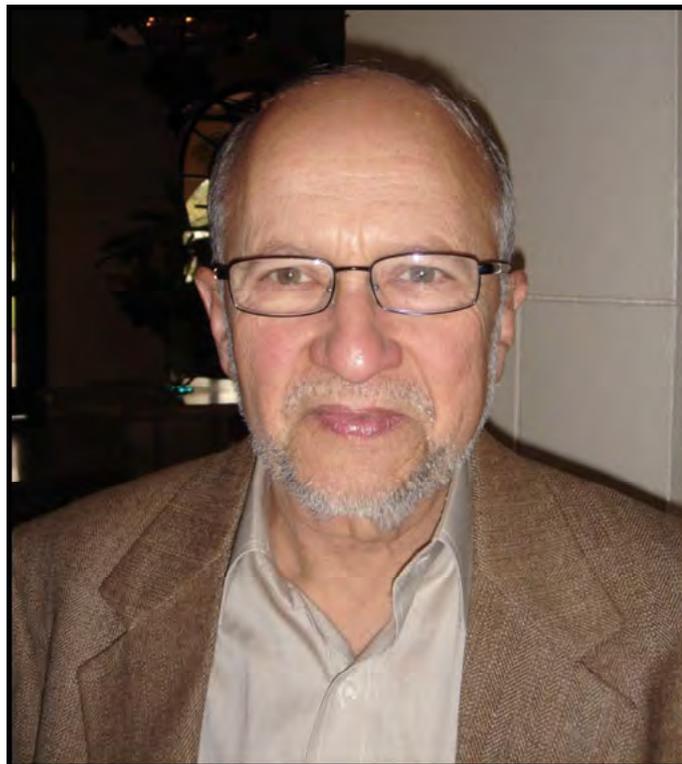
---

<sup>24</sup> From: Sherins, Robert S. MD: *Southern California Lions Eye Institute at Saint John's Health Center*, Self-published, Santa Monica, California, 2010. Chicago businessman, Melvin Jones, created the Lions Clubs International in 1917 as a non-governmental public service organization of highly successful entrepreneurs, who would be motivated to use their skills for the betterment of their communities. By 1920, the organization included women members. As the Lion's efforts became increasingly successful, the ensuing charitable contributions were organized by over a million members in 203 countries and embodied the highest ethical standards that led to their direct interest in the matters of public concern, and the civic, social and moral welfare.

In 1925, Helen Keller spoke at the Lions International convention that was held in Ohio and convinced the members of the Lions Clubs to undertake funding projects to prevent blindness. Eventually, Lions projects were devoted to research in the prevention of the loss of sight and hearing, diagnosis of ocular and hearing disorders, and treatments of those afflicted worldwide.

Annual support for the Lions Eye Clinic at Saint John's began in 1963 and first operated out of a trailer on the North Lawn. When the South Wing Construction was completed in 1965, the clinic facilities were moved to the Ground Floor location.

Lions Club' members referred needy patients to SCLEI, so it was necessary to have a full range of clinics, performing whatever examinations and diagnostic texts to determine the best treatment. The new staff provided the expertise for the next phase of the development of SCLEI, which included the establishment of specialty eye clinical services including treatments for glaucoma, vitreoretinal diseases, retinal fluorescein angiography, oculo-plastic surgery, neuroophthalmology, diagnostic ultrasonography, strabismus and orthoptic treatments, and corneo-scleral eye-banking for transplantation surgery. Specialized Anesthesia was developed to minimize the drugs, length of surgery and recovery time with great attention paid to drug interactions, excessive hydration from intravenous infusions and adequate, (without excessive) sedation.



Anesthesiologist Harvey Gutman, MD  
SCLEI Staff



Roger Sorensen, MD  
Pediatric Ophthalmology

Dr. Roger Sorensen in SCLEI Pediatric Clinic

In 1972, the first training program for practicing ophthalmologists was conducted at Saint John's utilizing basement facilities. Phaco-emulsification of the cataractous lens was taught utilizing both didactic classes and microscopic surgical techniques with hands on training. Attending ophthalmologists arrived for the courses from all over the USA, Canada and Mexico. Educational courses also were established to update knowledge and surgical skills in ophthalmic laser treatments, management of diabetic retinopathy, retinal fluorescein angiography, malignant melanoma and a number of additional diagnostic tests for ocular ultrasonography and intraocular lens implant calculations, automated visual fields, and ocular complications from medications or metabolic diseases. Courses were provided with some of the best instructors in the world attending. An educational arm of SCLEI was created under the sponsorship of the "**Foundation for Ophthalmic Education,**" which earned the California Medical Association's Category 1 accreditation.

Traditionally, Lions Club referrals came from individual clubs, who paid the costs of individual treatments. In 1980, a more attractive financial arrangement was made with Saint John's Health Center administration. Instead of paying for individual cases, large sums of money were granted in the form of the latest equipment for advanced procedures. Only surgical packs and the cost of the intraocular lenses were reimbursed; physician's fees were waved as the cases were taken as pro-bono. This arrangement created a complete ophthalmic center for diagnoses, treatments and surgeries for the private cases. At the time there were 50 ophthalmologists on the Saint John's medical staff.

During the following 3-decades, SCLEI gained international attention. Professors from Japan and Europe visited to lecture and demonstrate their particular techniques. In 1974, Dr. Sinskey was asked to conduct a phacoemulsification course in Moscow, USSR. His team

included Dr. Edwin Hill, also on the SCLEI staff. Dr. Svaytyslav Federov, chairman of the Ophthalmology Department at Moscow Medical University #2, sponsored them. The course was a huge success allowing comparison of the surgeries of both Drs. Federov and Sinskey and building exceptional relationships in the process.



Dr. Robert Sinskey Meeting Professor, Dr Federov in Moscow, USSR



Dr. Edwin P. Hill Examining Patient at Slitlamp Microscope

Also in 1974, arrangements were made to host the Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology from Moscow Medical School and Hospital #1, Professor Mikhail Krasnow, MD. Dr. Krasnow was shown the SCLC facilities, diagnostic procedures and instruments, as well as eye surgeries. He spent leisure time at Dr. Sinskey's Malibu home and as a guest with several staff members.



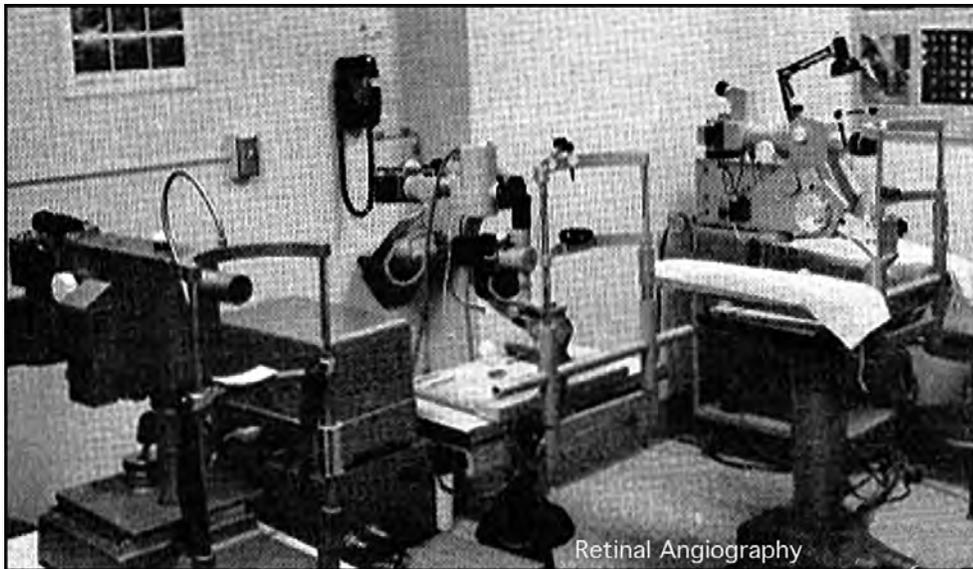
Lt to Rt: Robert Sinskey, MD, SCLC Director;  
Prof. Mikhail Krasnov, MD USSR; and  
Robert S. Sherins, MD, Angiography Director.



Lt to Rt: Prof. M. Krasnov, Robert Sherins, MD, and  
Sister Marie Madeleine Shonka, SCL, SJHC Administrator



Larry Wilson, Photographer; Robert Sinskey, MD SCLEI Director; Professor Mikhail Krasnov; and Robert Sherins, MD, Angiography Director



Retinal Angiography  
SCLEI Retinal Angiography Laboratory

During the 1980s, Dr. Sinskey had the opportunity to meet the inventor of the Intraocular Lens, **Prof. Sir Nicholas Harold Lloyd Ridley**, United Kingdom. The Queen of England knighted him for his pioneering development of the Perspex intraocular lens, which was implanted into a human eye. It failed because it was too heavy and large, but the subsequent development by others of more appropriate designs led to the worldwide success in the correction of blindness due to cataracts. In the

21<sup>st</sup> century in the U.S., there are more than 2½ million cataract surgeries each year with intraocular lens implantations.

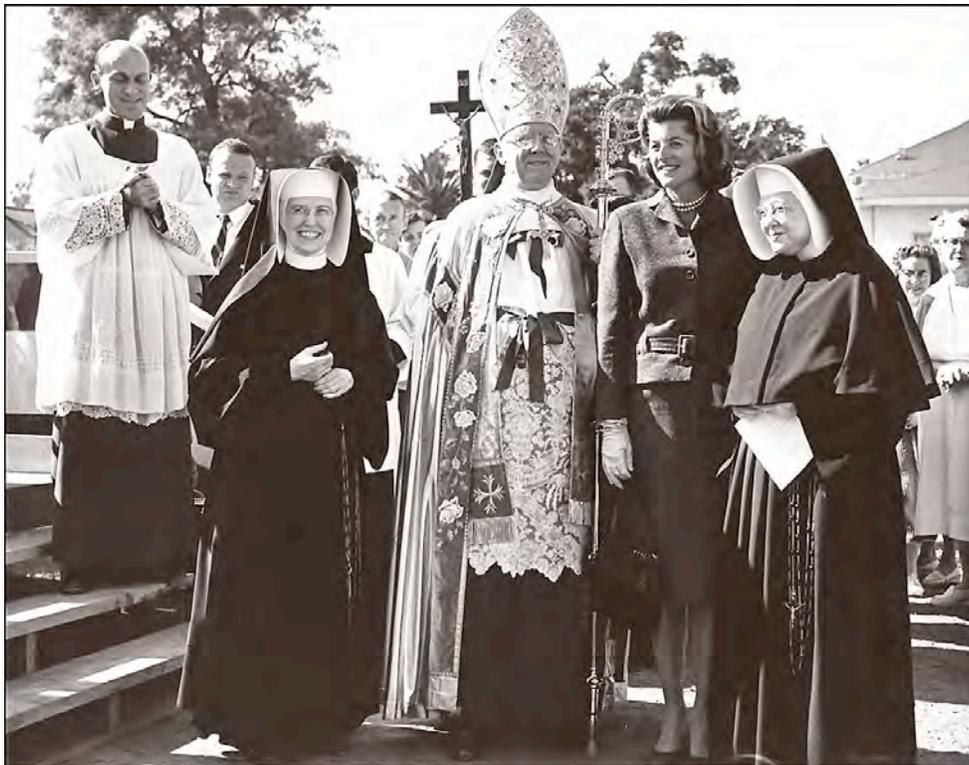


Sir Harold Ridley with Dr. Robert Sinskey  
London, England

### Evis J. Coda MD



In 1961, a psychiatric colleague advised Dr. Evis Coda that the administrator of Saint John's Health Center, Sister Mary David, SCL, was seeking their first director of the newly completed **Lt. Joseph P. Kenneth Child Study Center** that was located on the campus of the health center in Santa Monica. The **Kennedy Foundation** funded this marvelous center for the research studies, diagnoses and treatments of children afflicted with developmental and emotional illnesses. It was Eunice Kennedy Shriver who presented the funds to Sister Mary David. When construction was completed, the facilities were ceremoniously opened and dedicated by His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Manning, Archbishop of Los Angeles - and a very good friend of both the Kennedy family and the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.



(Lt to Rt): Sister Mary David, SCL; Archbishop McIntyre, Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Sr. Mary Lorian Degen, SCL at dedication of the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Child Study Center at Saint Johns Health Center, Santa Monica, California, March 18, 1961.

Dr. Coda was immediately appointed after his interviews at Saint John's. He had been provided the opportunity to discuss his views of the new stewardship of the Kennedy Child Study Center and further discuss the matters with his wife, Ann Marie.

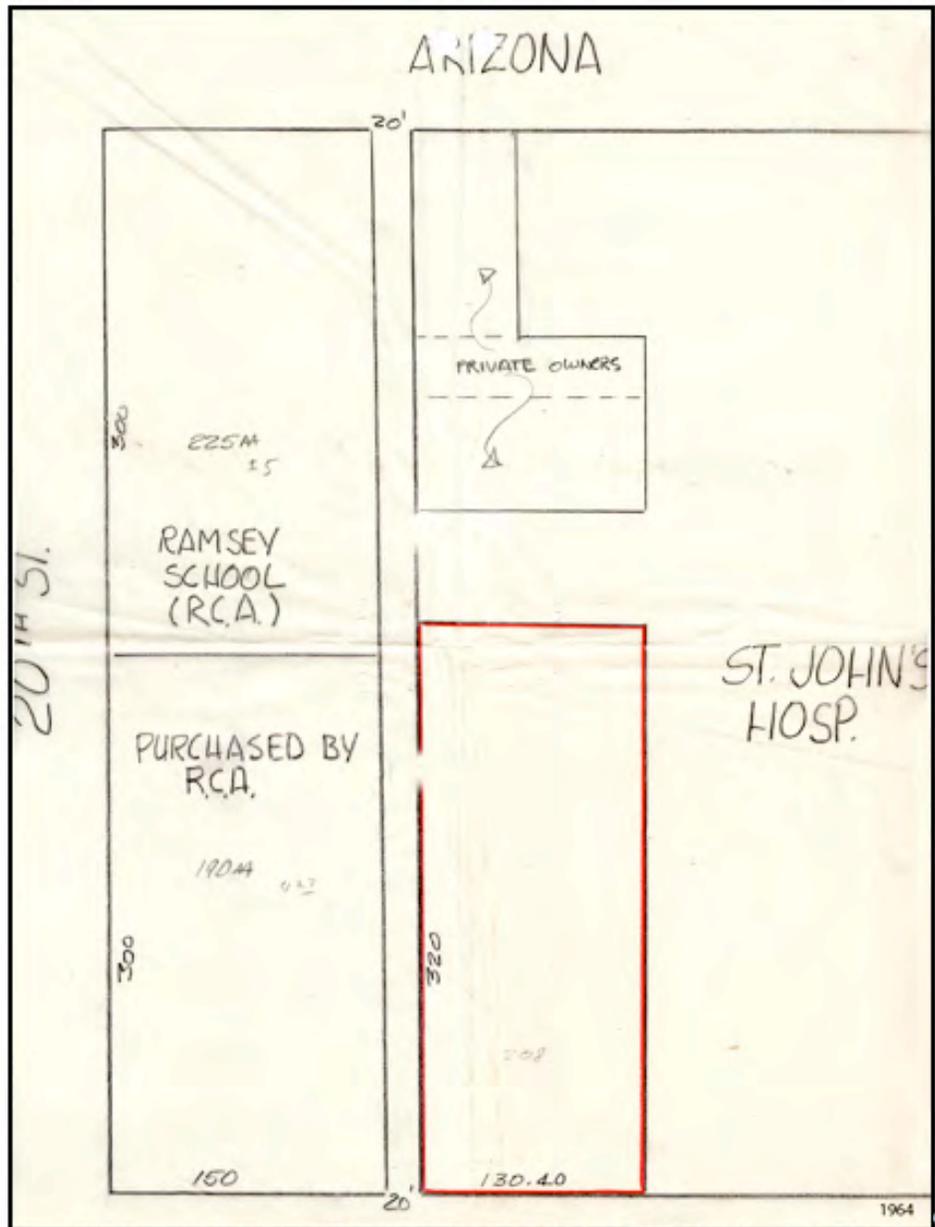
They decided to accept the appointment and moved shortly thereafter from New Orleans to California.

Dr. Coda's professional background, his unique subspecialty of pediatric psychiatry, as well as the Kennedy Foundation's generous investments in research and treatment of children with emotional disorders was so exceptional at the time. The Kennedys, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth and Dr. Coda created an unparalleled program at Saint John's Health Center and brought noteworthy attention to the emotional diseases suffered among children.

As background to Dr. Coda's exceptional knowledge, he entered Army service in 1943 during his medical training in Pennsylvania. He attended Drexel School of Medicine in Philadelphia. Drexel had merged Hahnemann and several medical schools into one extended academic program. Evis graduated from the Hahnemann school in 1947. He relocated nearby to the Veterans Administration Hospital in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, where he completed his psychiatric residency 1953-1954. In 1954-1955, Evis extended his training by taking a fellowship in child psychiatry at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic. He then moved to New Orleans where he became the Medical Director of the Community Child Guidance Clinic serving until 1961.

Even by the time of 1961, the subspecialty of child psychiatry was rarely studied or practiced in the United States. New York University had inaugurated the first academic program for training in child Psychiatry during the 1940-1950s. They established nine additional institutions/clinics in several States.

In keeping with the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth to support patients with mental health problems, Nebraska trained psychiatrist, **Dr. Tony Sturdevant** joined Saint John's medical staff in 1946. He directed the **Ross Center for Behavioral Services** that was named after SCL foundress, **Mother Xavier Ross** (1951). Dr. Sturdevant opened an outpatient clinic for non-hospitalized mentally ill patients (1959). Psychiatrist Dr. Edward Colbert served as medical director. In 1967, as a result of new federal legislation regarding treatment of the mentally ill, the Sisters established the **Saint John's Hospital Community Mental Health Center**, which provided care for inpatients, outpatients, day-care treatment, emergency services and consultations.



Architectural Development Map of Property on 20<sup>th</sup> Street, 1964.

The campus of Saint John's Health Center expanded as the requirement for additional medical services increased. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles collaborated. They provided for the initial funds to purchase the properties along 20<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to the original Golden State Plant and Floral Co. nursery property. The property extended from Arizona Avenue to Santa Monica Blvd., which included several private homes, the Ramsey Military Academy and the undeveloped land at the corner of Santa Monica Blvd and 20<sup>th</sup> St.

# EVENING ~~OUTLOOK~~ Bay Area News

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1959

## School To Continue

### Catholic Archdiocese Buys Ramsey Property

The Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles has purchased the Ramsey Military School property on 20th street in Santa Monica, it was learned today.

Transfer of title from the Ramsey family to the archbishop of Los Angeles was recorded last week.

The property is at 1315 20th St., directly behind St. John's Hospital and on the southeast corner of 20th St. and Arizona Ave.

Transfer of the Ramsey property completes ownership of the entire east side of 20th street from

Santa Monica boulevard to Arizona avenue by the Catholic Church headquarters in Los Angeles.

Maj. Ralph M. Ramsey, director of the long-time Santa Monica private school for boys, emphasized that it will continue to operate at the same location "for an indefinite period."

He said Ramsey Military School has no immediate plans to move or go out of business.

It has been previously announced that the half of the block adjacent to Santa Monica boulevard would be used by the church for construction of the Kennedy Foundation specialized clinic for children.

There have been rumors that the Ramsey property will eventually be used for expansion of the St. John's Hospital.

Sister Mary David, administrator of the hospital, said today that there are no plans for expansion in the immediate future.

She pointed out that St. John's is operated by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kan. The order would have to buy the land from the archbishop of Los Angeles if it was to expand the hospital.



Ramsey Military School - 20th Street

June 1950

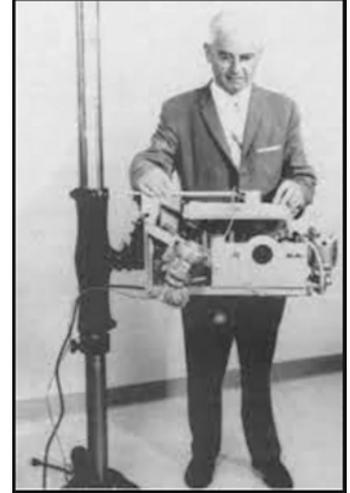
View from the West of Ramsey Military Academy, 1315 20th Street.

## William Blahd, MD



After Dr. William Blahd was discharged from the Navy in 1945, He became chief of the radioisotope service at the Wadsworth Veterans Hospital Center in West Los Angeles. He also held the academic position of Clinical Professor of Medicine at the UCLA School of Medicine; Medical Physics Physician of the UCLA Radiological Safety Division.<sup>25</sup> Blahd associated with Franz Bauer, MD from USC & Los Angeles County Hospital; as well as Benedict Cassen, PhD, UCLA Medical Physics Section, Atomic Energy Project; Clinical Professor of Biophysics, UCLA School of Medicine; and

Consultant in Radioisotopes, Radioisotope Service, VA Center, Los Angeles, California.



During World War II, research scientists at the Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico had a close working relationship to physics consultants at the Lawrence Laboratory, a division of the University of California, in Livermore and the UCLA Department of Physics in Los Angeles. The trio of colleagues, Blahd, Bauer and Cassen had close contacts with nuclear researchers and biologists at UCLA, later on with the academic community of the UCLA School of Medicine and the Veterans Administration at Wadsworth Veterans Hospital. In the era of E. O. Lawrence at the U.C. Livermore laboratory, who developed the world's first cyclotron in the 1940s, radioactive materials were available to Blahd, Bauer and Cassen. Using radioactive elements, the group explored biologic systems and the physical aspects and emissions of radioisotopes. Already radioactive phosphorus (P32) had been tried in leukemia cases during the 1930s, as well as radioactive iodine uptake by the thyroid gland. **When Benedict Cassen developed the first rectilinear scanner at UCLA, the team was able to explore further use of radioisotopes by tracing and recording where the isotopes were concentrated in tissues.** Later on the team explored detection and treatments of tumors, fluid compartments, circulatory systems and gastrointestinal functions.

Nuclear medicine tests are safe scans by cameras/detectors, which can detect radiation emitted by nuclear isotopes. Such scans revolutionized medical diagnostics by being able to detect organs that concentrated the injected, inhaled or swallowed isotopes. The radiopharmaceutical agents used are carefully selected to provide the least amount of radiation exposure to the patient, but large enough doses are used to ensure accurate test results. Nuclear medicine tests determine the presence of disease based on biological changes in tissues that take up radio-tagged substances concentrated in the particular organ of interest.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Blahd, William H., MD; Franz K. Bauer, MD; Benedict Cassen, PhD:" The Practice of Nuclear Medicine," Charles C. Thomas, publisher, Illinois, 1958.

<sup>26</sup> [interactive.snm.org/docs/whatisnucmed.pdf](http://interactive.snm.org/docs/whatisnucmed.pdf)

By the 1990s, PET (Positron Emission Tomography) became available, which improved the resolution of the tomographic radiobiologic scans. PET scans reveal biologic activity. Under current development are PET scans that are combined with CT (x-ray) tomography.

Until 1955, UCLA trained students, interns, residents and fellow at Saint John's Hospital. The Wadsworth VA hospital medical faculty also participated and trained their staff at Saint John's. Dr. Blahd introduced the clinical use of nuclear medicine to Saint John's and became the first director of the department. In the mid-1950s, Harvard trained John B. (Jack) Richards, MD, joined the medical staff as a private practicing clinical endocrinologist with special interest in thyroid diseases. He soon assumed the directorship of the Department of Nuclear Medicine

. In 1970, he was joined by Julian (Robert) Karelitz, MD, who had taken the first-year of the neuro-surgical residency at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, followed by a 3-year residency in nuclear Medicine at Wadsworth VA under Dr. Blahd. A decade later, Edward Glass, MD joined the team. Dr. Glass also trained under Dr. Blahd at Wadsworth VA Hospital Department of Nuclear Medicine.

## Oscar Thomsen, MD

Oscar Thomsen, MD was also a founding member of the Saint John's Hospital medical staff.

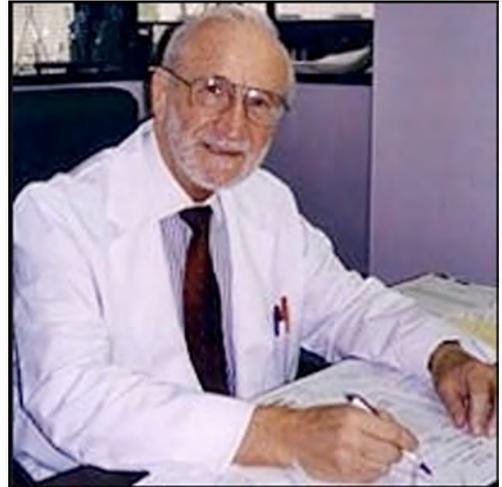
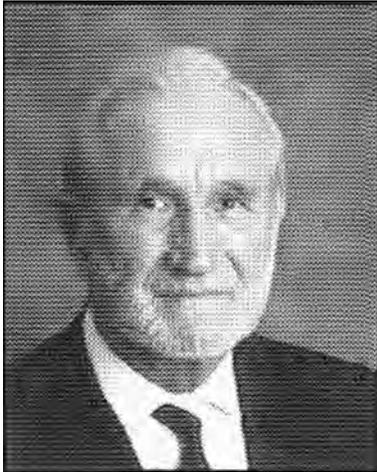


He was board certified in psychiatry. From the beginning of his clinical career, Dr. Thomsen earned great admiration for his abundant wisdom and kind personality. He served many administrative functions of the medical staff and psychiatry department. Oscar was a cartoonist, who supplied the medical staff news journals with abundant examples of his amusing drawings. He provided humor for the rest of us to lessen our stress and improve our emotional attitudes.



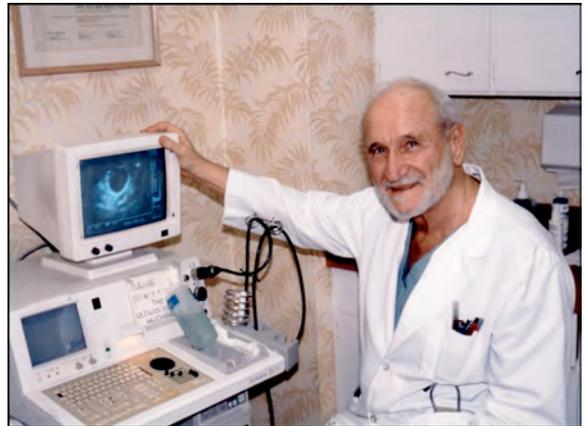
*Greetings — Dr. Thomsen introduces Fern'nand and his family in this sketch for Medical Staff News.*

## Jaroslav J. Marik, MD



When Jaroslav J. Marik, MD (Jay) arrived in the United States, in 1964, he was already a celebrated physician having graduated Magna Cum Laude<sup>27</sup> from the renowned medical school of the Charles University of Prague, Czechoslovakia. By the time Dr. Marik graduated, he had already been selected as an exemplary student, who provided lectures to the students/faculty and engaged in independent research in metabolism, a very responsible role that previously had not been offered to medical students. The Charles University School of Medicine is the oldest medical school of Central Europe (1349).

Dr. Marik's initial medical training in the United States was taken at Roswell Park Hospital in Buffalo (1964) followed by an internship in Passavant Memorial hospital at Northwestern University in Chicago (1965) and Residency in Ob/Gyn (1966 – 1969) in Chicago Lying In hospital, also at Northwestern University. During that time, Dr. Marik witnessed his first abdominal/pelvic laparoscopic procedure that was performed by a visiting MD who learned laparoscopy directly from a French professor and taught laparoscopic surgery to the residents of Northwestern University. Thus, when Dr. Marik moved to Los Angeles (1969), he already was proficient in surgical laparoscopy.

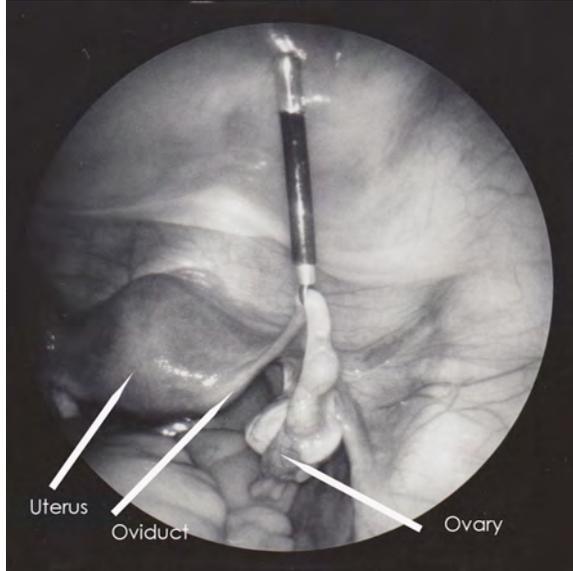


Marik was appointed Chairman of the Gynecology Department at Olive View-UCLA surgical service in Sylmar, where he taught laparoscopy to residents.<sup>28</sup> Later on he brought the procedure to the UCLA surgical service. He joined the surgical staff at Saint John's Health Center (1969) and introduced laparoscopic technique. Colleagues referred patients to him and watched the procedures with great interest. With the training in

<sup>27</sup> Dr. Marik was awarded the Czech academic honor of the "Red Index" that is equivalent to the western University's magna cum laude honor.

<sup>28</sup> UCLA affiliate hospital in Sylmar, California.

laparoscopy, fellow gynecologists gained expertise as well. Soon general surgeons were talking with Dr. Marik, watching his procedures and also gaining great interest in its application to general surgery. Due to exemplary examples provided by Dr. Marik, both the gynecologists and general surgeons at Saint John's Health Center incorporated laparoscopy in their surgical armamentarium.



## Henry Hasserjian, MD



In 1929, Henry Hasserjian, MD was born in Aleppo, Syria. His family originated in Ainteb, Eastern Anatolia, Turkey. The town has been renamed in Turkish, Gazianteb. Eastern Turkey was a southern extension of Armenia since the 14<sup>th</sup> century when King Leo established settlements, a vigorous economy and military security over the Ottomans. From 1915, the Ottoman government began systematic arrests of Armenian families. Those not murdered immediately were marched mostly to Adana along the Mediterranean Sea. Survivors then were force-marched to the Syrian border. Many (mostly infants and elders) died from exhaustion, dysentery and dehydration. Remaining survivors settled mostly in Aleppo, Syria,

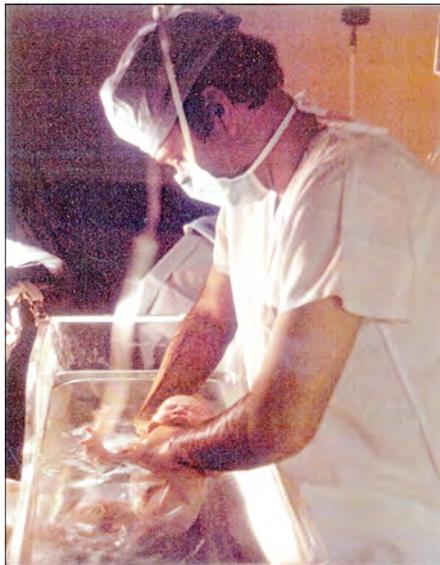
and often were taken in by religious groups. The cruel Genocide of Armenians until after the end of World War I was extreme.<sup>29</sup>

Dr. Hasserjian was educated at the American School of Aleppo, where he learned to speak Arabic, French and English. Henry's father already had plans to immigrate to the United States, sending his oldest son first, then Henry when he graduated in 1951. He completed his university education (BS Biology) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York; his medical degree (MD) at the State University of New York, College of Medicine, in Syracuse, New York. His internal medicine internship was served at Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, New York 1959-1960.



Dr. Hasserjian wanted to become an obstetrician and gynecologist; his residency was completed at the California Hospital in Los Angeles (1963). He was promptly accepted on the medical staff of Saint John's Health Center and soon joined the Ob/Gyn private practice of Drs. Keith Wallace, Dana Badley, and Leon Shulman.

Dr. Hasserjian was an exemplary surgeon and soon after beginning his practice, introduced **Lamaze**<sup>30</sup> techniques to Saint John's that dramatically altered obstetrical care. All patients previously delivered babies under heavy sedation, general anesthesia and were oblivious to the birth process. Mothers did not meet their newborns until the next day. Dr. Hasserjian told me that it was his patients who wanted to experience the miracle of their own birthing and hold their newborn child immediately.




---

<sup>29</sup> Personal communications with Henry Hasserjian, MD.

<sup>30</sup> In 1951, Dr. Fernand Lamaze introduced his methods of childbirth in France, incorporating techniques he witnessed in Russia. Education of mother and father in childbirth, relaxation and breathing techniques, as well as emotional support in the company of trained doctors and nurses spread rapidly to the U. S.

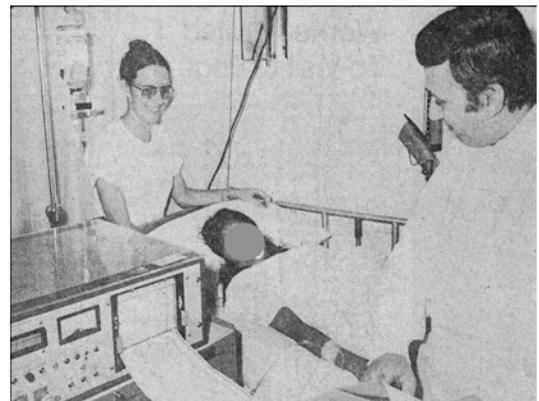
The Lamaze method introduced natural spontaneous labor, encouragement to move about, allowed fathers and close friends to take the "journey" with the mothers, avoided medical interventions, as much as possible, encouraged mothers to "push" during labor in



more comfortable positions, and encouraged mother and baby togetherness immediately after birth to breast feed. During prenatal months, both mothers and fathers were educated in the anatomy of their bodies and in the practices of normal labor and delivery by Lamaze certified assistants with the specific goal of reducing the mother's fear of pain in labor. Fathers were encouraged to be present in both the delivery room or when necessary in the operating rooms during caesarean deliveries.

Regarding new concepts in obstetrics, Dr. Hasserjian told me: "...During my medical school education, Obstetrics was practiced much differently... Prior to this time, all patients in labor was heavily medicated with demerol, nembutal and scopolamine. Delivery was always under general anesthesia. Husbands were exiled to the 'father's room' and the next day the nurse would bring a baby ...to their mother." "In the late 1960s, women wanted to change their birthing experience. Lamaze became very popular among couples. "...[By] 1970, many hospitals were implementing Lamaze concepts." "I befriended Dr. Art Ulene, an NBC educator and LA Times columnist, who was a great proponent. He produced a show on television that received great acclaim. Uline encouraged me to bring Lamaze to Saint John's. Dr. Hasserjian related: "...Dr. Le Boyez visited Los Angeles from Paris. He lectured at UCLA about placing the newborn into a warm bath at 98.6 ° F and keeping the operating room lights very low as it was in the mother's womb." "I introduced Le Boyez methods along with the Lamaze classes.

In 1988, Dr. Hasserjian initiated a new obstetrical program for underinsured or financially indigent mothers. With the assistance of Sister Marie Madeleine Shonka, SCL, Administrator of Saint John's Hospital, the "Small Step" probono obstetrical care program was offered. Said Dr. Hasserjian, "...Saint John's obstetricians volunteered to take care of needy pregnant women, just like their private patients." "The doctors gave free prenatal care, delivered them and followed them as post-partum patients."



In 1991, Dr. Henry Hasserjian was named as one of the ten best gynecologists in Los Angeles!



### **'Small Step' program honored**

The Westside Women's Health Center held a luncheon at the Miramar Sheraton to honor Saint John's Hospital and Health Center's "Small Step" program. From right, Gene D. Parks, M.D., Westside Women's Health Center Executive Director Paula Leshay, Saint John's Vice President of Nursing Elizabeth Farley, Saint John's President and CEO Sister Marie Madeleine, and Henry K. Hasserjian, M.D.

### **Donald E. Wagner, MD**



Dr. Donald Wagner brought exceptional surgical distinction to Saint John's when he moved from UCLA in 1966 and established his private practice in surgical oncology with Dr. Don Rocklin. Both surgeons had been part of the UCLA Cancer Center. Later on in the 1980s, Drs. Decio Rangel and Barry Mann, also from UCLA Cancer Center, joined Dr. Wagner at the new Saint John's Cancer Center, later replaced by the John Wayne Cancer Institute. Except for tumors of the brain and lung, the Saint John's Cancer team managed advanced techniques to treat malignant melanoma and all other types of visceral and solid tumors.

Dr. Wagner was extremely well educated in sciences. At Ohio State University, he received 3 degrees: BS in Anatomy 1951; and an MD in 1955. After serving in the army as a ward surgeon 1957-1959, Fort Dix New Jersey, Dr. Wagner received a Master's Degree in Science

1961.<sup>31</sup> He took a surgical oncology fellowship at UCLA in 1961-62; Assistant Professor at University of Pennsylvania 1962-66; Appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor at UCLA in 1966 where he paired with Dr. Don Rocklin. Both doctors established their private surgical practice partnership at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica from 1966 until Dr. Rocklin died in 1973. Dr. Wagner was appointed Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Saint John's in 1983 and he received the "physician of the Year Award" in 1984. He was a key researcher in the national multi-center (15 universities) research program for regional perfusion techniques with chemotherapeutic agents for malignant melanoma. He also was appointed as a visiting attending in surgical oncology at the Wadsworth Veterans Hospital in West Los Angeles in 1978. He was soon promoted to Senior VA Consultant. Dr. Wagner retired from private practice at Saint John's in 1991, but continued his academic appointment at the VA until 1993. During those interim years, he worked closely with the American Academy of Surgery as a surveyor of the proficiency of cancer programs in hospitals in the West and in Hawaii.

- - -

## Donald Morton, MD



When actor John Wayne died from lung cancer in 1981, the Wayne Family Foundation was created. They funded the John Wayne Cancer Clinic at UCLA. Michael Wayne served as Chairman of the Board. However, in 1991, the Wayne Foundation decided to affiliate with Saint John's Health Center. There were many factors involved in the move to the private hospital in Santa Monica. Their move to Saint John's was assisted by the sympathetic intervention of William Hummer, MD, who is a long time Obstetrician and Gynecologist on the medical staff and trustee of the hospital. Patrick Wayne took over as chairman in 2003

when Michael passed away suddenly.

Dr. Donald Morton served as Director of the John Wayne Cancer Center from its inception. He set International standards of excellence in cancer detection, diagnosis, research and treatment. Dr. Morton developed the world's most extensive melanoma tissue bank by preserving in liquid nitrogen the biopsied tissue. This process of immortalizing melanoma cells aimed to make the cancerous tissues available for future retesting.

---

<sup>31</sup> MS thesis pertaining to the evaluation of pancreatic enzymes in cholecystitis.

## Armando Giuliano, MD



From the inception of the Cancer Center at UCLA in 1981, Dr. Armando Giuliano was part of the Wayne Cancer team. He specialized in diseases of the breast, which is a dedicated surgical subspecialty focusing on early detection and the preservation of the best quality of the patient's life. Most importantly, Dr. Giuliano was a pioneer and the chair of the "sentinel node" study that led to the transformation of breast surgery by using injected blue dye to be able to detect the location of lymphatic drainage to detect potential metastases. He also participated in studies of lumpectomy versus more aggressive surgery in breast cancer treatment avoiding chronic arm lymphedema. He continues to research genetic factors in breast cancer, resistance to chemotherapy and the problems associated with treating metastatic breast disease. issues.

## Richard Corlin, MD



Richard F. Corlin, MD graduated Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia with Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honors. After his internal medicine residency at Hahnemann, he served in the U.S. Public Health Service in the Heart Diseases and Stroke Control Program. His gastroenterology residency at UCLA culminated in initiating and directing the first endoscopic unit at UCLA. He established his practice at Saint John's Health Center in 1972 forming the Southern California Medical Gastroenterology Group with colleagues Drs. David Rimer and Thomas Kun. Dr. Corlin's pursuit of medical advocacy began afterwards serving as president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association In 1978, president of the California Medical Association n 1992 and president of the American Medical Association in 2001-2002.

## William G. Plested III, MD



Dr. William G. Plested III was a clinical professor of thoracic surgery at UCLA's medical school and served in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Wadsworth Veterans hospital 1971-1974. In 1975, Dr. Plested established his surgical practice at Saint John's Health Center and inaugurated his active role in the political medical realm. Dr. Plested went on to serve as president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association (1983) and the California Medical Association (1989). He has been an AMA member since 1972 and was elected to the AMA Board of Trustees in 1998. He was AMA President 2006 - 2007. Dr. Plested has been actively advising California legislators and federal advisory groups regarding medical injury and liability issues, as well as medical compensation payments, and is a strong advocate for patient's rights and benefits.

## Leonard Marmor, MD



Dr. Leonard Marmor was educated at UCLA and trained as a physician at the UCLA School of Medicine. He became extremely interested in prosthetic joint replacement surgery when serving as an orthopedic surgeon on the UCLA faculty. In the mid-1960s, he spent one year in England operating with Sir John Charnley, English orthopedic surgeon who pioneered artificial hip surgery.

Upon return to Los Angeles, Dr. Marmor introduced the use of the high molecular weight polyethylene hip prostheses at UCLA. Within a few years, he moved his private practice to Saint John's Health Center, where he encouraged other orthopedic surgeons to gain the experiences with total joint replacement surgery of the hip, knee, and later on, shoulder and other smaller joints. His expertise included rebuilding the operating rooms to facilitate the procedures and to reduce infections.

## Tim Burton Smith, MD



From Smith, Tim Burton MD with Carter Henderson:<sup>32</sup> ***White House Doctor.***

***White House Doctor***, "Only a handful of doctors have been responsible for the health and well being of presidents of the United States. This is the highly personalized story of T. Burton Smith, M.D., White House doctor to President Ronald Reagan and Vice President George Bush during two of the most eventful years in recent American History. Dr. Smith was with President Reagan during his meetings with world leaders from Mitterrand and Kohl to Gorbachev and Hirohito. He was rarely more than a few minutes away from the president and First Lady in the White House, Camp David, aboard Air Force One, or at their 688-acre ranch in California. Never before has a White House doctor described in such intimate detail what it is like to look after the most powerful man on earth."<sup>33</sup>

---

<sup>32</sup> Madison Books, 1992.

<sup>33</sup> Personal copy given by Dr. T. Burton Smith to Robert S. Sherins MD, 1993

Dr. Burton Smith was board certified in Urologic Surgery. He was a founding member of the Saint John's Hospital medical staff. In his private practice, Dr. Smith was the urologist of Ronald Reagan and he continued to care for Reagan when he became Governor of California (1967 – 1975). In 1981, then president Reagan invited Dr. Smith to serve as the White House Physician.

During the interval between Reagan's terms as California Governor and U.S. president, Dr. Smith brought Reagan to speak to the surgeons at the Bay Surgical Society meeting at the Bel Air Hotel in Los Angeles. The occasion provided a close up view of the future president. Reagan was extremely polite and completely engaged those he spoke with as evidenced in the next photograph of Reagan, Dr. Smith and ophthalmologist, Robert Sherins, MD.



Burton's book, "White House Doctor" contains very informative details of his role as the president's physician. The book details Dr. Smith's extensive travels with the president both throughout the U.S. and overseas. Reagan's close relationship with Saint John's Health Center and the medical/surgical staff remained trusting until his passing in 2004.

## Henry Kawamoto MD



Henry Kawamoto was born in Long Beach, California, in 1937. At age 5 (1942), his family was suddenly relocated to Internment Camp Rohwer, Arkansas, as part of the World War II national governmental policy to relocate citizens of Japanese descent. His father was a successful dentist, but nonetheless was removed from his home and private practice until after the war.

After attending Junior College in East Los Angeles and 2 years of dentistry at the University of Southern California, Dr. Kawamoto transferred to the USC School of Medicine. In 1971, he entered the residency program in general surgery at Columbia University in Manhattan, and then in 1973 shifted his training to plastic surgery at New York University – also located in Manhattan.

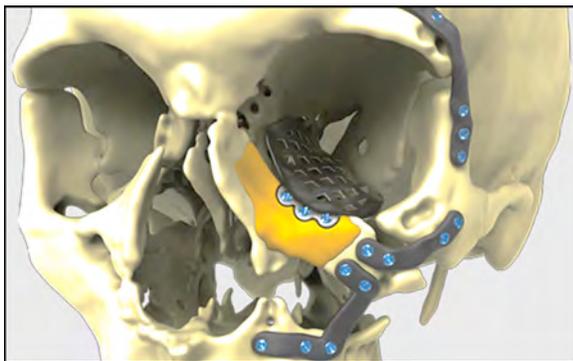
Dr. Kawamoto became fascinated by the published works on craniofacial reconstructive surgery by Professor Paul Tessier of Paris, who as a plastic surgeon was considered to be the father of modern craniofacial surgery. In 1974, Henry Kawamoto spent a fellowship year in Paris operating and studying with Professor Tessier. At the conclusion of his fellowship, Dr. Kawamoto moved to Los Angeles bringing his specialty skills to UCLA. In 1975, he started a full time academic position at UCLA Harbor General Hospital in Carson, California. With his double specialty training from both USC Dental and Medical schools, he was able to attend to surgical problems of the oral, maxillofacial and craniofacial disorders. At night school classes, he enthusiastically studied human embryology.

By 1975, Dr. Kawamoto began his private practice in plastic surgery at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, California. In so doing, he was engaged in surgeries at UCLA, Harbor General Hospital, and Saint John's. Each year, he took at least one new fellow in craniofacial reconstructive surgery training new plastic surgeons in these particularly specialized procedures. His fellows came from International locations to study with him. Dr. Kawamoto had mastered tasks of split-skull bone grafting; utilizing bone grafts, titanium clips and straps and other material hardware to stabilize fractures and defects that had poor or absent support from the adjacent tissues; rearranging facial bones in cases of congenital anomalies of the face, jaws, orbits and cranium; as well as the very complex procedures involved in separating conjoined twins, who had intricate patterns of deformities, as well as shared cerebral vasculature among other very complex difficulties.



Dr. Kawamoto was an active participant in the cleft palate/lip clinic with Drs. Les Holve, Ben Edwards and Janet Solomonson, whom he also had helped to train at UCLA. Kawamoto demonstrated his knowledge of genetics and embryology and demonstrated superb surgical concepts and skills that directly benefitted the Head and Neck surgeons, as well as the Oral surgeons. When indicated in the process of evaluating the extent of the cleft abnormalities, children received additional surgical correction of deformities of the mandible and maxilla with dental re-alignments in the process of correcting the cleft.

The global approach to treatment included best possible functional and cosmetic remediation of abnormalities, as well as therapy for swallowing disorders, speech problems,



and other related issues including emotional difficulties. It also was learned that spontaneous cleft palate disorders were easier to repair and had better outcomes than cleft palate cases associated with congenital syndromes, who suffered much more extensive problems also involving complex multiple organ systems.

Dr. Kawamoto merged his work between his private practice at Saint John's and the Cleft Palate Clinic and UCLA, where he continued

surgical training of residents and fellows, published his research results and the results of his surgical innovations. He was an extremely well recognized International expert in

craniofacial and oral surgical disorders, and he lectured to surgical societies from every continent. His skills were affirmed world wide by the recognition of his exceptional surgical advice and sharing of his comprehensive personal experiences.

Saint John's Health Center  
Historical Images

March 6, 1939

Right Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. O'Dwyer  
333 West 2nd Street  
Los Angeles, California

Right Reverend and dear Monsignor:

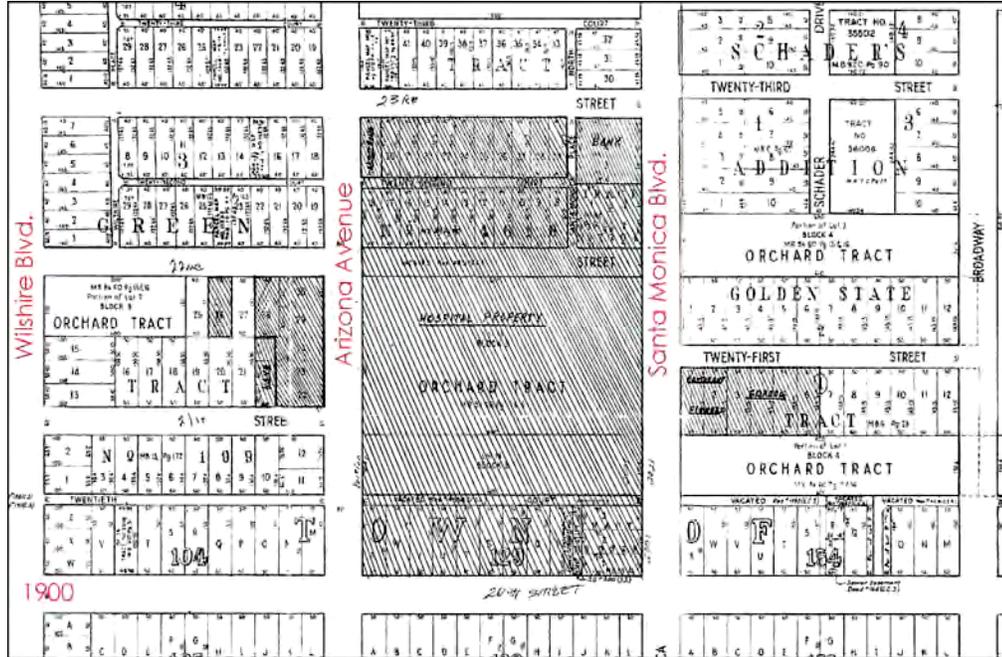
Your letter came yesterday afternoon just as I was writing your Most Reverend Archbishop the decision of the Council regarding the proposed hospital in Santa Monica. I am enclosing a copy of the letter to his Excellency so that you may be acquainted with our plans.

I know you will be pleased that we have accepted the invitation of your Archbishop to establish a hospital in his archdiocese; and judging from your kindness to us on our visit to Los Angeles, and the interest you have shown in this matter, I am confident we can always count on your friendship and support.

With my kindest regards, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

*gn. J. O'Dwyer*



Golden State Plant and Floral Company  
Santa Monica, California, 1907

Make it your important business  
to order

**Plants, Bulbs and Flowers**

from the

**Golden State Plant  
& Floral Company**

V. E. HATHAWAY, Manager

Home 1209;                      Cor. 21st and Oregon Ave.,  
Sunset 242                      Santa Monica, Cal.

Santa Monica City Directory, 1907



Msgr. O'Dwyer, Director of Hospitals in Los Angeles diocese; Mr. Herman Dobrott, lawyer who aided Saint John's; Sister Mary Corona SJH Superior; Mr Luigi Pozzo, SJH Contractor; Mother Mary Francesca O'Shea, Mother General SCL; Msgr. Nicholas Kennealley, Pastor St. Monica's parish; Mrs. Harry E. Mahood, active hospital supporter, Mr. J. E. Loveless, SJH architect; Sister Vincent Marie, Community Treasurer General; Louis E. Mahoney, MD, C.C. Hopkirk, MD, and Joseph P. Saylin, MD, who with attorney Mr. Herman Dobrott aided site selection of the property in Santa Monica -1941.



Saint John's Hospital,