

APPENDIX

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(Note: The intimate relations with which the Department of Georgia, The American Legion, has had with the Veteran Hospitals in the State, namely U. S. Veterans Hospital No. 48, Atlanta, and U. S. Veterans Hospital No. 62, Augusta, required that a short history of these two institutions be incorporated in the history of the Department.)

It was impossible to secure the data from the officials at Hospital No. 62, in Augusta, as was the case in Atlanta, so the Department Historian could only work upon the meagre information he could obtain elsewhere concerning the hospital in Augusta.)

UNITED STATES VETERANS HOSPITAL NO. 48, ATLANTA, GEORGIA

The development of hospital facilities for the benefit of World War and Spanish American War veterans was first initiated in Atlanta, Georgia, by the purchase from Dr. Cheston King, at a cost of \$90,000.00 in December 1919, of his hospital. This was a small private hospital with a bed capacity of about twenty-five or thirty patients. The site was ideal, however, being located in the beautiful Peachtree Road section of Atlanta, about one-half mile from Oglethorpe University, and consisting of twenty-three acres. The Government, after purchasing the hospital from Dr. King, expended approximately \$100,000.00 in remodeling the hospital, erecting a nurses' quarters and enlarging the bed capacity to eighty-five.

The hospital was opened under the supervision of the United States Public Health Service in November, 1920 and as it was the practice of this Service to number their hospitals, this hospital was given No. 48, and has been commonly known as Hospital 48 ever since.

The first Medical Officer in charge was Dr. Clinton Sheehy, and the hospital was operated under the supervision of the United States Public Health Service until May, 1922.

Sometime during May, 1922 this hospital was transferred to the jurisdiction of the newly organized United States Veterans' Bureau, and Dr. Sheehy was succeeded by Dr. M. C. Guthrie for a short period and Dr. Guthrie, in turn, was succeeded by Dr. George S. Pitcher. Dr. Pitcher, in turn, was succeeded by Dr. Frank Gordon as Medical Officer in charge and Dr. Gordon was followed by Dr. George L. Johnson, who continued as Medical Officer in charge of the hospital under the direction of the United States Veterans' Bureau until the hospital was closed for enlargement in July, 1929.

At an expenditure of approximately \$600,000.00 there was erected a new hospital unit, a recreation building, a laundry and administration building, and the nurses' quarters were remodeled and officers' quarters erected on the reservation. The grounds were improved and beautified and the new institution was formally dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on September 26, 1930. The new institution, however, had been functioning before the formal opening, the first patient having been hospitalized on July 8th. A Spanish American War veteran by the name of O'Quinn was the first patient, and since that time, through the month of March of 1931, there has been admitted to the hospital 1,296 patients and 1,102 patients have been discharged.

The new hospital has a bed capacity of 200 and has dental, clinical, and X-ray laboratories equipped with the most modern equipment; has a splendidly equipped physiotherapy department and dietetic department, and one of the most complete orthopaedic shops for the construction of artificial limbs and braces in this part of the country. The hospital is a general medical hospital for the treatment and care of general medical cases.

The new institution is not only a hospital but in line with the policy of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, General Frank

T. Hines, it is combined with the former Regional office of the United States Veterans' Bureau which was located in the city, so that the present institution is designed to give both medical relief and to handle ex-



JOHN M. SLATON, JR., Manager

peditionally the disposition of such other benefits as the veterans may be entitled to, such as the adjudication of disability compensation, insurance, adjusted compensation benefits, in addition to furnishing information or advice in connection with any other benefit the veteran may be entitled to.

The work is divided into divisions and sections with a department head responsible for the particular work or service so that every service that a veteran may possibly get from the United States Veterans' Administration can be obtained at this institution expeditiously. There are approximately three hundred and fifty people employed both in medical and non-medical activities at this

station of the United States Veterans' Administration. Mr. John M. Slaton, Jr. is the executive manager of the combined medical and administrative facilities.

A brief summary of some of the work done since the opening of this institution other than medical is, since July, 1930 to March 31, 1931, which has been the heaviest period in the history of the United States Veterans' Bureau, there was received approximately 50,000 applications for adjusted compensation loans and approximately 35,000 loans were made, totaling approximately \$7,000,000.00. During this same period this office received approximately 13,000 applications for disability allowance claims, 1,500 disability compensation claims and there was adjudicated more than 8,000 disability allowance claims and 2,281 disability compensation claims during this period. At the present time, payments are being made to 11,307 veterans and their dependents in the State of Georgia, for both disability compensation and disability allowance.

The following is a list of department heads in charge of veterans' activities at this station:

JOHN M. SLATON, JR., Manager
 VAUX OWEN, Assistant to the Manager
 DR. H. C. HARDEGREE, Regional Medical Officer
 DR. EDWARD K. MOORE, Clinical Director
 DR. THOS. N. BARNETT, Chief, Surgical Service
 DR. W. H. MALONE, Chief, Out-Patient Service
 ROBERT E. STOWERS, Regional Adjudication Officer
 HARRY A. WALLERSTEIN, Regional Attorney
 GEORGE O. BECK, Regional Accountant
 CLIFTON A. WOOD, Regional Disbursing Officer
 HARRY E. KING, Regional Supply Officer
 J. W. BRIGGS, Regional Utility Officer
 DR. ROBERT F. WELLS, Regional Dental Officer
 DR. THOS. N. ROBERTS, Chief, Dental Clinic
 MISS ETHEL D. HOUSTON, Chief Nurse
 MRS. KATHERINE S. RANDLE, Chief Dietitian
 MRS. KATE M. McQUIGG, Librarian
 S. A. MITCHELL, Chief, Contact Unit
 MRS. D. M. ROBINSON, Director, Red Cross Service.

UNITED STATES VETERANS
 HOSPITAL NO. 62
 AUGUSTA, GA.

Overlooking the city and about four and a half miles from Augusta, Ga., is the United States Veterans Hospital No. 62.

The land upon which the hospital now

stands was once a part of a war camp during the World War, Camp Hancock. Two hundred acres of this camp had been leased by the Government for an annual rental of \$47,000, but in 1920 the United States Government purchased outright 177 acres as hospital grounds and a little later 125 acres of farm lands located at a distance of 2.7 miles from the present institution.

The original hospital building was built by the Sister of St. Joseph, a Catholic Sisterhood, and was used as a convent and a girls' school for a year. Through financial reverses these nuns lost this property and it was taken over by a corporation; the building being reconstructed and remodeled for conversion into a tourist hotel and was named in honor of General Leonard Wood, the Lenwood Hotel. It is of granite and brick construction; a main building and two wings, the north wing being two stories high, while the south wing, like the main building, is four stories in height. The Government purchased this in 1920.

Thirteen wooden structures were removed from old Camp Hancock, buildings used by the troops during the World War, and utilized in the construction of quarters for the personnel and for warehouses. The main building was entirely unsuited for use as a hospital as it was also inadequate in accommodations. Many alterations were made interiorly to fit the building for the use it was intended—a hospital for the mentally impaired veterans.

The hospital was formally opened on November 22, 1920 under the control of the United States Public Health Service. On May 1, 1922 Lenwood Hospital was taken over from the Public Health Service by the United States Veterans' Bureau on May 1, 1922.

While the hospital was opened in November, 1920 with but twenty-three patients the demand for admission and beds soon became so imperative that increased accommodations was necessary to meet this demand and an allotment of approximately \$400,000 was appropriated by Congress for the construction of five psychotic ward buildings, mess hall, a kitchen and a central heating plant. The ward

buildings were two-story, fire proof structures of tile and concrete construction of the most modern type and providing bed space for fifty-six in each building. Each building was thoroughly equipped for the care and treatment of the patients of the Government. In addition to the above three two-story buildings, of frame structure, were built and were utilized for occupational therapy, the Red Cross, and the library. Additional bed space becoming necessary, another appropriation was made by Congress which resulted in the construction of five ward buildings, of tile and concrete. These new structures were begun in 1924 and completed in 1925, giving the institution a total bed capacity of 574.

On July 13, 1925, fire destroyed the frame buildings used by the Red Cross and for the library. In June, 1926, appropriations by Congress, made it possible to construct a recreational building for use by the Red Cross; the basement being devoted to the occupational therapy department; the library; and completely equipped for all recreational and diversional activities of the patients.

In later years additional buildings, such as garages, nurses dormitories, and quarters for the personnel were added to the plant so that the institution today stands as one of the most modernly equipped institutions of its kind under the control of the veterans administration, the United States Veterans' Bureau.

However, steady as the continuous growth of this institution has been it is insufficient to take care of the number of patients demanding attention and care, and additional appropriations have been made by Congress for the increase of its bed capacity.

The first Commanding Officer of this institution was Dr. Frank E. Leslie, who was assigned to this station in March, 1920, and served until December, 1921. He was succeeded by Dr. Grover A. Kempf, who remained as Medical Officer in Charge until June, 1922. Dr. M. C. Baines was then placed in command and remained until 1928, being replaced by Dr. R. K. Soper, who is at present efficiently serving as Medical Officer in Charge this hospital.

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