

The Winding Valley and the Craggy Hillside

A History of the City of Rosedale, Kansas by Margaret Landis.
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Chapter VI THE ELEANOR TAYLOR BELL HOSPITAL K.U. MEDICAL CENTER



Dr. Simeon B. Bell, his wife, Eleanor Taylor Bell and children came to Kansas Territory in 1857 from Mansfield, Ohio, settling near Stillwell and Aubrey - Johnson County, Kansas.

After his service and experiences in the Civil War, Dr. Bell purchased a quarter-section of land in the Turkey Creek Valley. (Later comprised the North part of Rosedale.) His wife died in 1866. Dr. Bell devoted his time to farming and his property. (Land Owner). If he practiced medicine it was on a very limited basis.

For a long time he cherished the thought of a medical Institution being located on his Rosedale property and to serve as a memorial to his wife. In 1894, Dr. Bell offered thru Dr. Francis Huntington Snow, Chancellor of the University of Kansas, to give the State of Kansas land located in College Park to build a Medical Hospital and Medical School for the last 2-years Clinical Work of the new medical course. The first 2-years were taught at Lawrence, Kansas.

The Eleanor Taylor Bell Memorial Hospital was built in 1905. It was a 2-story building and basement 112 feet by 45 feet with Oak stairways. This was the "Medical Pavilion."



October 23, 1911, a new 3-story brick building was opened and used as an Infirmary, taking care of 75 patients. The building also included a ward for the treatment of crippled children.

(This picture shows the porch after it had been enclosed when the building was renovated for Virus Research (1958). The monkey used in the research program were housed on the porch.)

The Hospital Dispensary and Laboratory was erected in 1915.

The 2-story building had 6 rooms for Out-patients. A laboratory was equipped on the 2nd floor for routine laboratory tests.



Following World War I, plans for the expansion of the hospital and school were further advanced when the 1919 Kansas Legislature voted \$200,000 for a new hospital building if a suitable site could be obtained.

March 1920, The City of Rosedale voted bonds amounting to \$35,000 for the purchase of a site for the new hospital. A campaign to raise an additional \$35,000 was started by gifts from Alumni Members, faculty, friends and public subscription.

May 1920, The Kerns Property (approximately 13 acres) - 39th Street and Rainbow Boulevard was purchased for \$65,000 for the new hospital to be known as "The Bell Memorial Hospital and The Kansas Medical School."



The Bell Memorial Hospital and The Kansas Medical School

The new hospital was opened June 26, 1924. The building had 70 rooms, 66 beds, an X-Ray Room and laboratories.

Thru the years, the hospital and school have expanded to occupy 35 acres with 50 buildings plus the present project under construction.

1936 - The Bell Memorial, original hospital of the School of Medicine of the University of Kansas was renamed "The University of Kansas Hospital." "Bell Memorial" was designated as the name of the Medical Center Administration Building.

1947 - The name "UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER" was officially adopted.

1952 - The second year of the four-year program was moved to the Medical Center.

1962 - The 4-year Medical Course was consolidated on one campus -- climaxing an endeavor of 57 years.

The School of Medicine and Hospital have grown not only in additional land and buildings but also in services and educational programs.

The School and Hospital are now known as:
"University of Kansas Medical Center College of Health Sciences and Hospital."

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OLD BUILDINGS ON "GOAT HILL"

June 1924 - Kansas City, Kansas took over the Old Bell Memorial Hospital as a new civic and communicable disease hospital. Capacity: 65 beds. The program was cancelled a year later.

1929 - During the Depression - (1929 and in the 20's) The Rosedale Community Center, a charitable organization was here - helping the unemployment situation in the community. At one time, nine families who were unable to pay rent were housed here.

1936 - A Tuberculosis Ward was established in the 2-story building - taking care of 35 patients. (In 1951, this Annex Building was used as a Psychiatric Hospital).

1937 - The original Bell Memorial Hospital was razed.

1958 - The buildings were renovated and new equipment installed. The Virus Research Center moved to the Eleanor Taylor Buildings. Virus Research Team closed their laboratory work here in 1970.

1962 - The Leukemia Research Group came to the Eleanor Taylor Buildings. They continued their work here until March 1972 when the laboratory and equipment was moved to 4207 Rainbow Boulevard - building formerly occupied by Rosedale Post Office.

Spring 1972 - In the Urban Renewal Program the buildings were razed.

The inscribed Bronze plaque in the Main Entrance Hall of the Medical School of the University of Kansas:

This Institution Was Founded by a
Gift of Land and Money by

DR. SIMEON BISHOP BELL

1820 - 1913,

As A Memorial to His Wife,

ELEANOR TAYLOR BELL,

1824 - 1866

"I hope that the hospital will never be limited to any class or condition; that the sick of every kind will be admitted, white and colored, adults and children; those suffering from contagious diseases as well as those who are not -- the well-to-do as private patients and the poor as free or with charge suitable to their financial condition."

--- Dr. Simeon Bell.