

THE HOSPITAL

Screven County's new hospital is the result of many years of dreaming and planning. Back during the war years when all construction was curtailed and counties found it difficult to obtain the machinery and materials to build the roads and bridges they wanted to build, many counties accumulated a surplus in their treasuries.

Members of Screven County's Board of Commissioners had the foresight in those years to invest any surplus they accumulated in Government Bonds. At the same time they looked to the future and began to plan for providing some of the facilities they felt the community needed.

Without hesitating, they turned their attention toward a hospital. In order that they might be ready to go ahead with this work when materials became available, they employed an architect to design the hospital and write specifications for its construction. They applied for assistance from the Federal and State governments, and when construction of hospitals under the Hill-Burton Act was started, Screven County's application was near the top of the list.

As a result of the farsightedness of the members of the Board of Commissioners, when Federal and State assistance was made available, Screven County had the cash in the bank for its share of the \$332,000 the hospital cost. The Screven County Hospital was the first constructed in the State under the Hill-Burton Act where the local authorities had the cash on hand to pay the local share of the bill. In other instances it has been necessary for counties to float bonds or obtain the local share from public contributions, or through other means.

When the Screven County Hospital Authority was appointed and began to work out details for the building, it was agreed by the members of the Authority that the finest materials available and the best equipment money could buy should go into the hospital. As a result of this attitude, the hospital here is without superior in this part of the country. Except for the color of the faces of the patients, a visitor would be unable to tell which is the white and which the Negro wing.

Effry effort is made to give a complete hospital service to the patients who use the hospital. The operating room is air conditioned and fully equipped for any type of operation. All facilities needed for x-ray and laboratory examinations are provided. So patients can have complete x-ray service, arrangements have been made for an x-ray specialist from the University of Georgia School of Medicine to spend one day a week in the Screven County Hospital.

Pathological service is provided through arrangements with a pathologist in Athens who does all specialized laboratory work and examines all tissue removed in operations.

Two families in the County made gifts to the hospital as memorials to members of the families who have died. The Minkovitz family furnished the nursery as a memorial to their son and brother, David Minkovitz, and the Altman family furnished a room as a memorial to L.M. Altman, popular young Sylvanian who died about a year before the hospital was opened.

A local drug store, the Sylvania Pharmacy, provides copies of the Savannah Morning News every day for the patients in the hospital and The Sylvania Telephone sends sufficient copies of the local paper to the hospital each week for all the patients to see one.

At the time this report is being written, the hospital has a record of not losing a single patient. The hospital has been in operation two months and no patient has died in the hospital.