

1923 - 2013 • 90 Years of Healing Ministry • An Illustrated History of St. Mary Medical Center, Long Beach, California



90

*Years
of Healing
Ministry*

.....
1923 - 2013
.....



Dignity Health™
St. Mary Medical Center

Dedicatory Ceremonies for H

State, City and Church Officials Will Attend

HIGH officials of State, church and municipality will participate in the formal dedication of the new St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach this afternoon. Governor Frank F. Merriam, Archbishop John J. Cantwell, Mayor Thomas M. Eaton and Superior Judge Walter J. Desmond are scheduled to take part in the joint corner stone laying and dedicatory ceremonies, beginning at 4 o'clock. Numerous other notables of the Southland area have been invited to be present.

Dedication of the new structure today will mark the successful culmination of nearly ten years of effort on the part of Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word to erect a modern new hospital here. Back in 1928, when the need of more adequate facilities became apparent, a drive was launched to obtain a new hospital building. This program, halted by the depression, was resumed in 1933 after the temblor here had wrecked the existing building. Since that time activities of the institution have been carried on in a small temporary hospital just north of the new structure at Tenth Street and Linden Avenue.

More than a year ago work was started on construction of a hospital to cost approximately \$300,000. The building was designed by Architect I. E. Loveless. Construction was handled by C. J. Kuback Snyder Co., Ltd. The hospital will be ready to receive patients some time in August.

Here Since 1923.

It was in 1923 that Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word decided to establish a hospital in Long Beach. Shortly afterwards negotia-

ANSCO SELECTED FOR EXCAVATION

February 2, 1936, construction started on the new St. Mary's Hospital, now completed at Tenth Street and Linden Avenue, by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

The contract for the work of excavation was given to the AnSCO Construction Company, 2725 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach.

The AnSCO Construction Company was proud to have been selected as the "firing gun" in this beautiful new medical institution.

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GREETINGS

to the

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

Best Wishes for Success . . .

PATIENTS WILL BE TAKEN BY HOSPITAL BY END OF AUGUST

St. Mary's Hospital will be ready to receive patients in its new building before the end of August.

The new building was erected at a cost of approximately \$300,000, and is one of the most artistically designed and completely equipped hospital buildings in this section of the country. At present it will accommodate 100 patients, but is equipped for twice that number, and planned so that new wings may be added at any time.

The building is four stories, earthquake resistant and fireproof throughout. Careful thought and special planning has been given to bring each department to the maximum of modern efficiency.

On the first floor are the administration departments, business offices, auditorium for staff and other meetings, reception rooms, dining rooms, kitchen and dietetic departments.

A modern laboratory and pharmacy are also on this floor, as well as the emergency surgery, receiving and observation rooms, and reception rooms.

The second floor is occupied by private rooms, double rooms, small wards, solariums, chart and utility rooms.

The obstetrical department is also on the second floor, including two

tions were completed whereby the organization acquired the Long Beach Hospital, then operated under the direction of Dr. Truman O. Boyd. The name of the institution was changed to St. Mary's and the hospital played an important part in the community life of the city until it was rendered useless by the 1933 earthquake. The Sisters organization operates numerous hospitals in Texas, Louisiana and other parts of the Southwest, including a new institution at San Bernardino. Sister M. Sebastian Burke is Superior at the local institution. Rev. Mother M. Damian Dollard, Superior General of the order with headquarters at Houston, Texas, is here for the dedication.

Guard of Honor.

The ceremonies today will be directed by Very Rev. W. J. Stewart, V. F., pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Long Beach. Preceding the service the guests will march from the temporary hospital site to the new structure. A guard of honor from the Knights of Columbus will participate. The committee in charge of this phase of the ceremony is composed of John Schinner, chairman; J. O. Sawkins, Isaac Richards, Edward Martin and E. P. Mulholland. Blessing of the cornerstone by the Most Rev. John J. Cantwell,

Notables



delivery rooms and the nursery for thirty babies. Adjoining the nursery is an open-air balcony.

The third floor contains private and double rooms, with air balconies and solariums. All rooms have private bath and toilet.

The fourth floor houses the surgical and X-ray departments. There are four modern operating rooms, two major and two minor—and the X-ray department includes fluoroscopic and deep therapy rooms.

D. D., Archbishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles, will follow.

Raising of the Stars and Stripes over the new hospital will be directed by the Knights of Columbus and the gathering will join in singing the national anthem.

Following presentation by Very Rev. W. J. Stewart, Governor Frank F. Merriam will deliver an address. Introduction of other notables will follow.

Superior Judge Walter J. Desmond will deliver the dedicatory address; Dr. Truman O. Boyd will speak on "St. Mary's Hospital, Past and Present," and Dr. M. W. McDougall, chief of staff, will also speak.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the hospital chapel by Archbishop Cantwell will conclude the service.

SUCCESS TO THE NEW

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

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GREETINGS . . . to the New ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL



ST. MARY

MEDICAL CENTER

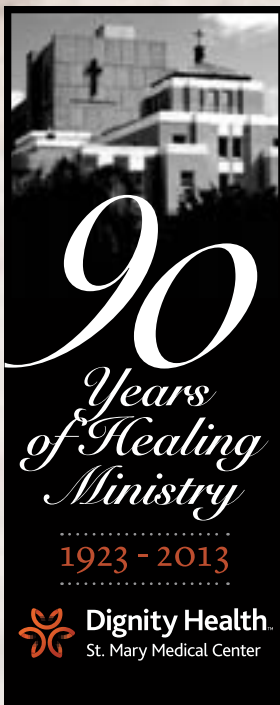
1923

2013

90th Anniversary

More than just a health care facility, St. Mary is also a center for cultural diversity and service in the Long Beach community. The rich and fascinating mixture of races, cultures and beliefs reflected at St. Mary is a source of strength, leadership and innovation.

Today, after 90 years of healing ministry, growth and excellence, St. Mary Medical Center remains a health care leader in Long Beach. In the past as in the present and future, the focus at St. Mary has been and will always be on the patients' health, well-being and spiritual needs. It is a center for the healing of *body, mind and spirit.*



Welcome

Welcome to the 90th commemorative history of St. Mary Medical Center. In the pages that follow, you will learn about the people that founded, nurtured, and guided this institution through the tumult, the sadness, the faith and the glory that has propelled our history across the years. Interspersed, you will also get a sense of the evolution of our home town of Long Beach. Combining new words with old photographs, we have attempted to bring our rich and exciting past into focus, enabling us all to face our complex and challenging world with appreciation for those who have come before us, pride in those who today deliver quality health care to those we love or will never know, and confidence that this continuum of caring and compassion will carry our community to even greater heights in the years to come.

Tom Salerno
President and CEO
St. Mary Medical Center

Sister Gerald Earls
Vice President, Mission Services
St. Mary Medical Center

Jyoti Datta, M.D.
Chief of Staff
St. Mary Medical Center



Honored

We are truly honored to be a part of the governing bodies guiding this wonderful and historic medical institution. St. Mary Medical Center has served hundreds of thousands of individuals and families regardless of their social, cultural, religious, or economic circumstances. Our members generously give their time and talent to ponder and decide issues and actions that directly impact the lives of patients, as well as their loved ones, families, friends, neighbors and employers. They are not unlike the hundreds who have served in the same volunteer capacity for the past ninety years and those who will serve in the future. All of us are proud of the work we do, thankful for the work done so well at our behest, and ever mindful of the trust the community has shown us all since 1923.

Dan O'Callaghan

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Ivy Goolsby

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Sisters

Honoring those Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
who served their mission at St. Mary Medical Center.
Their dedication to the community of Long Beach is greatly appreciated.

Sr. Bibiana Baxter	Sr. Palladius Grey	Sr. Cyril O' Connor
Sr. Gabriel Behan	Sr. Redempta Guider	Sr. Donatus O' Connor
Sr. Amatus Biggins	Sr. Michael Francis Harnett	Sr. Anthony Marie O' Donnell
Sr. Cataldus Blackburn	Sr. Loyola Hegarty	Sr. Fidelma O' Donovan
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Sr. Agnesita Brosnan	Sr. Good Counsel Jones	Sr. Bernice O' Keefe
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Sr. Timothy Brosnan	Sr. Edith Judge	Sr. Bridget Therese O' Loughlin
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1923-1928

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1928-1934

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1934-1940 1946-1949

Sister M. Albert Shanahan
1940-1946 1949-1952

Sister M. Fintan Lambert
1952-1955

Sister M. David O'Gorman
1955-1961

Sister M. Laura Murphy
1961-1967

Sister M. Wilfred Shorten
1967-1974

Sister M. Eusebius Brett
1974-1976

Sister M. Lucille Desmond
1976-1991

William Nicely
1991-1994

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1994-1996

Tammie McMann Brailsford
1996-1999

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The Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of The Incarnate Word first migrated in 1866 from Lyon, France to Galveston, Texas. Eventually, many more came from Ireland.

The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in France

The roots of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word hark back to the mid-1600s when a pious young daughter of French aristocrats stood firmly against the kings of France and the Princes of the Church to establish the Sisters of the Congregation of The Incarnate Word (Christ) and Blessed Sacrament. Over the next two centuries, the order faced the horrors of war, humiliating persecution, violent death, and political expulsion. Some Sisters were slaughtered for their loyalty to the Roman Pope; others saw their order dissolved and were expelled from revolutionary France for a generation. When France stabilized in 1830, the holy order was recreated by returning exiles. A new monastery opened in Lyon just a few blocks from where a similarly dedicated group of Hospital Sisters of Charity worked in primitive wards bringing hope, companionship and Christ's love to the poor and dying. The two orders would ultimately join together in a new calling half a world away, as a trio of Sisters left France for a land called Texas to form the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.



Lyon Cathedral



Rendering depicting siege on Bastille during French Revolution.



The Senanque Abbey is representative of monasteries built throughout the countryside in early France.

1650 - 1835 Highlights

- 1789-93 – During the French Revolution, the Sisters were dispersed as France split from Rome. Religious orders had to abandon their monasteries when all property of the Catholic Church was confiscated by the new French government.
- 1801 – As anti-Catholic feelings in France eased, Father Etienne Denis returned from his Italian exile and formed a small cloistered community he named the Daughters of the Incarnate Word in memory of Mother Jeanne de Matel.
- 1832 – Sister M. Angelique (Rosalie) Hiver formally re-establishes the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Lyon.



Mother Jeanne de Matel

Jeanne de Matel was the daughter of Jean Chazard de Matel, an aristocratic French soldier of Italian descent who lived in a 13th century estate in the Loire Valley. Jeanne grew to be a woman of privilege who in 1626, at age 29, acquired a large home in Lyon. There she created a new order dedicated to The Incarnate Word. Denied formal recognition of her order for thirty years by the powerful Lyon Archbishop Alphonse de Richelieu, Mother de Matel risked his wrath and opened additional monasteries outside his sphere of power, in Avignon (1639), Grenoble (1643) and Paris (1644). The order was finally formally recognized in 1652, two years after Richelieu's death.



Twenty-one missions were built throughout California as part an effort to colonize the Pacific Coast region.

The Early Days in a New World

When Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed up the California coast in 1542, he passed a desolate, tidal mud flat, its shoreline covered in thick smoke. The likely source of the smoke were fires set by the indigenous Tongva tribes, which each autumn lit controlled burns of the underbrush; in so doing, they increased growth of lush seed grasses to feed and attract game, which they slew with spears. They had no war drums, few clothes and no slaves. Cabrillo simply noted this Baya de los Fumos (Bay of Smokes) in his ship's log and sailed right on by. Sixty years later, another expedition mapped the bay and named it to honor San Pedro of Alexandria, but the region was not seriously explored for another century. The Spanish conquistadores arrived in the mid-1700s and Franciscan missionaries followed in 1774, slowly establishing missions to convert the natives to Christianity and force them to work the missions' fields and herds to benefit their Spanish masters. Following the Mexican Revolution, the new non-sectarian government closed the missions and created vast, private ranchos through land grants to selected, connected individuals.



The original bells at the San Juan Capistrano Mission.



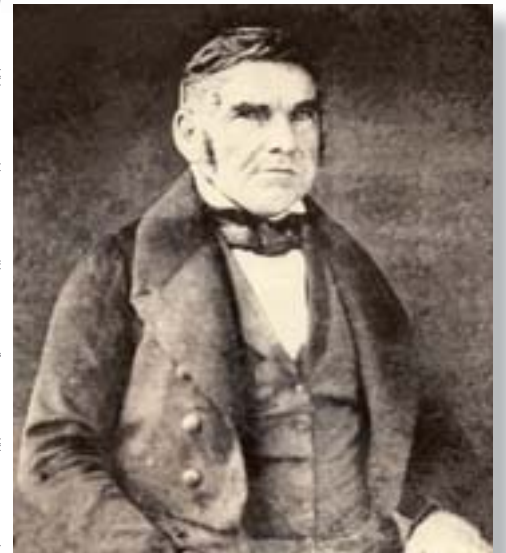
Fred Bixby on Horseback Rounding up Cattle, 1915



Fred Bixby Branding Cattle in Corral with Other Ranch Hands, 1915

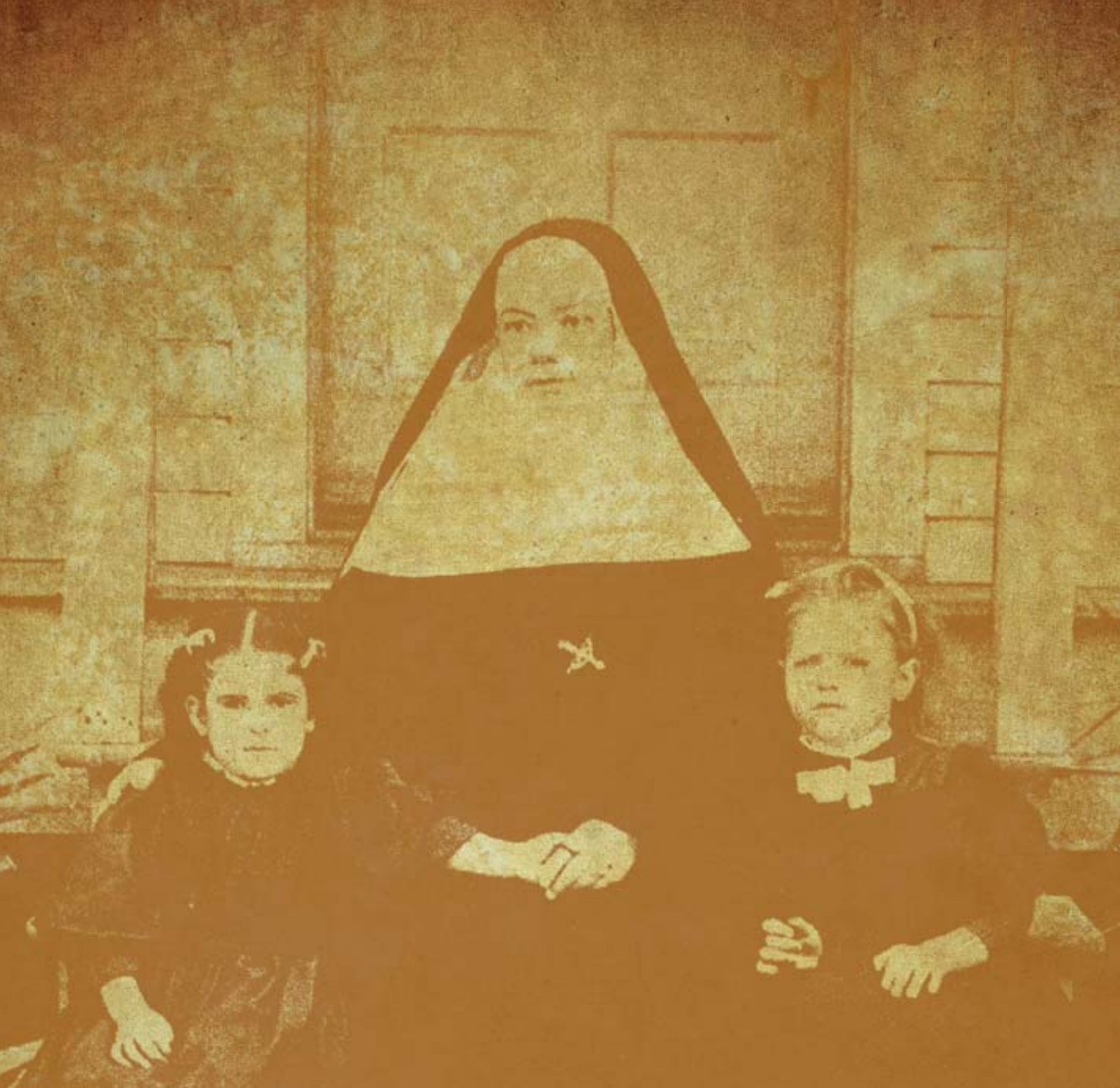
1540 - 1870 Highlights

- Even before the Mexican War of Independence tossed Spain out in 1821, the revolution saw the Spanish Church lose control of its California holdings; the land often given to the natives who had been working it for many years.
- 1869 - A veteran cattle rancher and shepherd, Jotham Bixby buys half of the 27,000-acre Rancho Cerritos he had been managing for his brother's firm, plus the 17,000-acre Rancho Palos Verdes and one-third of the 26,000-acre Rancho Los Alamitos.



John Temple

John Temple came to Mexican California from Massachusetts in 1827, the second Yanqui to settle in the territory. He became a successful Los Angeles mercantilist. In 1843, he bought the 27,000-acre Rancho Los Cerritos for \$3,000 from Manuela Cota, a daughter of Jose Nieto, whose original holdings totaled 167,000 acres. On his ranch, Temple pastured thousands of cattle used in his hide and tallow trade. Temple built a Monterey-styled adobe as his headquarters and summer apartment. The ranch thrived, helping Temple to become the wealthiest man in the county. In 1866, Temple sold Rancho Los Cerritos to the sheep-raising firm of Flint, Bixby & Co. for \$20,000.



Shown above: Sister Mary Vincent Cottier, 45, of France, and two children from St. Mary's Orphanage. Completed in 1874, the former plantation becomes the Sisters of Charity Orphanage. About 90 children and a dozen Sisters live within the complex.

Storms of Our Sisters in the Texas Gulf

Claude DuBuis, Bishop of Galveston, Texas, arrives home in September, 1866, with three Hospital Sisters from Lyon, France. The Sisters are recruited by him to be the first members of a new American order, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. As more French Sisters arrive, the order agrees to run the booming city's hospital. The order buys a former plantation on the coast and opens an orphanage, only to see it destroyed by a violent hurricane in 1875; it is quickly rebuilt.

A storm of a different kind emerges in the early 1880s, as many Sisters, unhappy in Texas, go back to France. The new Bishop of Galveston is of Irish descent; he bans recruitment in France and orders new sisters to be Ireland-born. The order grows quickly, attracting almost two dozen "Emerald Isle" postulants by 1885. Smallpox breaks out in Houston in 1890; the heroic work of the Sisters in treating victims is rewarded by Houstonians who donate money and build the Sisters a new, 75-bed hospital. Nearing completion in 1894, a fire reduces the new hospital to ashes. As the end of the century approaches, a new governing board decides to put off moving the orphanage inland. It is a fateful decision.

On September 8, 1900, a storm of enormous strength sweeps in from the Gulf and strikes the orphanage with full force. Galveston is just ten feet above sea level but the wall of water that surges ashore is fifteen feet high. When darkness comes, howling winds and ramming waves slowly destroy the city and orphanage. There are nine sisters and ninety children clustered on the second floor of the girls' dormitory; they sing hymns to drown out the roar of the storm and reassure the children. Using rope, each Sister lashes eight to ten children to her own waist to ensure the orphans will neither be swept away nor die alone. When the roof collapses, the Sisters and children are washed away into the darkness. While eighty-seven orphans and all ten Sisters die that night, none die alone.

In the next days, the bodies of some sisters are found, still tied to those now-lifeless children. Only three young boys from the orphanage live on to tell their story. Most bodies are never found. The order builds a new Galveston orphanage, but inland from the shoreline that is now protected by a 20-foot seawall. Each year on the anniversary of the storm, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, wherever they are, pause to sing "Queen of the Waves," the last hymn sung and heard by those we lost that horrible, but heroic, night in Galveston.



The Sisters and children gather for a group photograph on the steps of the orphanage in 1890.



Bishop Claude DuBuis

Raised on a farm in France, Claude DuBuis was 27 years old when ordained in Lyon in 1844. Recruited two years later by Bishop John Mary Odin, the first Bishop of Galveston (Texas), the Rev. Fr. Claude Marie DuBuis was sent as a missionary to the new Texas hamlet of Castroville, established by Henri Castro, a banker and naturalized American citizen who had headed to Texas Territory when Napoleon was toppled. Arriving in Castroville, Rev. DuBuis built a church and taught the Catechism in English, French and German (Alsatian). Reassigned to San Antonio in 1852, a decade later he was named second Bishop of the Diocese of Galveston, which covered the entire state of Texas. He expanded the diocese to 55 churches with 83 priests and 100,000 congregants and founded the state's first parochial school system. Following the Civil War, he founded the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in America and personally recruited in Lyon the first trio of French nursing sisters into the Galveston-based order. He remained the order's spiritual guide until poor health forced his retirement in 1892. He died in France in 1895.



In the early 1900s, big crowds gathered at the Pike, an amusement zone with arcades, food stands, gift shops, rides and a grand bath house.

Long Beach Blossoms

In the early 1880s, William Erwin Willmore, a British-born entrepreneur, tries to develop a 4,000-acre tract of Rancho Los Cerritos into Willmore City. His plan fizzles, but Jotham Bixby, a wealthy landowner and sheep rancher, joined by other investors buys the Willmore land in 1884 and begins laying out a new oceanfront community. They name it Long Beach with Bixby building a palatial home on Ocean Avenue. The Los Angeles Terminal Railroad Company lays a new rail line to connect Long Beach with Los Angeles in 1891. A land boom follows with some paying \$250 for an acre of land that had sold the year before for ten cents. But the boom turns to bust in the Panic of 1893, when Congress begins producing silver coins as well as gold, expanding the nation's money supply and creating fears that gold has become unstable. The nation suffers through inflation, business contraction and widespread unemployment. Then comes oil. In the mid-1890s, the City of Los Angeles saw 2,500 wells drilled by 200 companies. A commission appointed by President Grover Cleveland selects San Pedro Bay as the site of a new, major Pacific port, setting the stage for the modern Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. With expansion comes an influx of ambitious European workers, largely Roman Catholics.



Jotham Bixby



Downtown Long Beach c.1890



Women at the Pike amusement park.

1880 - 1900 Highlights

- 1882 - The state's Chinese Exclusion Act severely limits (in effect, barred) the arrival of new Chinese immigrant laborers. The law will remain on the California books for more than 60 years.
- 1898 - Rapidly developing a reputation as offering a healthy, curative environment, Long Beach now boasts 2,000 summer residents that inflate to 6,000 residents in the winter months.



Pine Avenue Pier and Pavilion. c. 1897

Jotham Bixby, known as the “Father of Long Beach” and two brothers came from Maine as part of the Gold Rush and quickly discovered that even failed miners had to eat. They forsook mining and went into the cattle business. In a few years, they took their profits to Iowa, where they bought and drove a large herd of sheep back to California. Under Bixby’s management, the herd grew to 30,000 head. Bixby formed the Bixby (Long Beach) Land & Water Co. and sold 4,000 acres to entrepreneur William E. Wilmore who wanted to develop a new farming community called Wilmore City. The idea flopped. A local group of investors, including Bixby, bought the land and designed a layout for a new community they called Long Beach. Jotham Bixby raised seven children and the family home eventually became a museum, Rancho Los Cerritos. Another Bixby, John W. Bixby, operated nearby Rancho Los Alamitos. J.W. Bixby began the development of the oceanfront property near the city’s picturesque bluffs and played a key role in naming streets and planning parks.



The Long Beach Oil Field, discovered in 1921, was enormously productive in the 1920s. In 2013, oil rigs are still pumping underground and offshore in the region.

From Medical Spa to Catholic Hospital

The Long Beach City Directory of 1904 reports that “Long Beach Hospital” is under construction at the corner of 10th and Linden. Designed by local architect Henry F. Starbuck, the hospital fails to open as planned. The vacant new building, however, soon becomes the new Long Beach Sanitarium, owned and operated by Dr. Abbie Simpson and her husband. Sanitariums are akin to medical spas/hotels, offering hydrotherapy and diet combined with golf, tennis, and surf-bathing, but they fell from fashion after World War I. The Simpsons’ sanitarium was sold to Truman O. Boyd, M.D., in 1921. Meanwhile the Catholic population had mushroomed nationally and the Catholic community in Long Beach was growing rapidly, as well. St. Anthony’s Parish, founded in 1903, had grown and by 1914 already had to replace its church with a much larger structure. When its pastor, Fr. John M. Hegarty, learned Dr. Boyd was going to sell his hospital, he contacted the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in Houston urging the congregation to consider converting Boyd’s facility to a Catholic hospital, the first south of Los Angeles. They agreed to look into it.



Pacific Electric Railway Car



Early freighter entering Long Beach, now one of the world’s largest shipping ports.

1900 - 1925 Highlights

- 1902 - The Pacific Electric extends a line to Long Beach and opens a beachfront bath house at its terminus. Thus began The Pike, one of the most successful public amusement areas in the nation and a major people magnet for Long Beach.
- 1909 - The Los Angeles Dock & Terminal Company buys 800 acres of marshes, beginning the development of the Port of Long Beach. In 1911, the new port’s grand opening ceremonies are held when its first shipment of redwood lumber is offloaded.
- 1920 - Edwin Earhart and his 23-year-old daughter, Amelia, attend the grand opening of Long Beach’s Dougherty Municipal Flying Field and watched an air race between two women pilots. A week later, Amelia took her first airplane ride; she was hooked. Taking a job as a telephone operator, Amelia spent her paychecks on flying lessons. Months later, she bought her first plane and in 1922, flew it to 14,000 feet, a new altitude record for a woman pilot.



Abbie Simpson, M.D.

Years before it became a Catholic medical facility, the building at 10th and Linden was a vegetarian-focused, holistic center, patterned after the Battle Creek (Michigan) Sanitarium, owned by John Kellogg, M.D., who with his brother, William, invented corn flakes as a healthier alternative for bacon and eggs. The Long Beach Sanitarium was opened by anesthesiologist Abbie Simpson, M.D., a Northwestern University Medical School graduate, who had been an instructor at Battle Creek Sanitarium. Dr. Simpson and her husband ran Long Beach Sanitarium for more than a decade using the holistic Battle Creek model. After World War 1, the healthcare industry was propelled away from spas and toward medical science, largely the result of the battle against a worldwide influenza epidemic. In 1921, the Simpsons sold the sanitarium to Dr. Truman O. Boyd from Twin Falls, Idaho.



*A large crowd gathered for the dedication of the Sisters' hospital in 1923.
Five sisters and their Superior oversaw the 70-bed facility.*

St. Mary Comes to Long Beach

In the spring of 1923, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, led by Mother M. Placidus Mulcahy, buy Dr. Boyd's hospital at 10th and Linden for \$160,000. After months of refurbishment, the Sisters open the 70-bed St. Mary's Long Beach Hospital on August 1st. Mother Placidus is joined by 3,000 people at the hospital's dedication August 26th, including Sr. M. Elizabeth O'Neill, the new administrator, prominent Signal Hill attorney Walter J. Desmond, and Long Beach Mayor Charles A. Buffum, a downtown department store owner. That evening, the Catholic Daughters of America sponsor a charity ball in the Hotel Virginia that raises \$912 for the new hospital. By 1927, plans are made to build a new ten-story, \$750,000 hospital and by August 1929 a fundraising campaign is ready to launch. A timing conflict sees the campaign launch postponed to the next spring. But fate had its own schedule. October 29th, known ever since as "Black Tuesday," sees America's economy implode, and all hopes for a new hospital fall victim to the Great Depression. As it turns out, however, it may have been a blessing in disguise. On March 10, 1933, a massive earthquake destroys the old hospital, chapel and convent alike, along with much of the city. There are no injuries and everyone is being cared for under the stars, yet, suddenly a frantic voice from a passing car yells that a tidal wave is heading toward the city. Despite memories of Galveston's Great Storm of 1900, the Sisters remain calm and prayerfully tend to their duties. No wall of water arrives. All are safe. A remaining stucco building is soon converted into a temporary hospital with 25 beds, and the original hospital building is razed. It will be three years before ground will be broken for a new hospital.



Mother Placidus

Born Katie Mulcahy in Carrigaline, County Cork, Ireland, Mother Placidus entered the spiritual community in 1896. She was a natural leader, with grace and hospitality, and had a keen sense of business. In 1922 she was elected superior general of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and re-elected in 1928 and 1934. Under her leadership, the congregation in Houston bought and developed the Villa de Matel motherhouse and established the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing. The Sisters also established St. Mary Hospital in Long Beach, St. Bernadine in San Bernardino, and other facilities in Louisiana and Texas. During Mother Placidus' twelve years as superior general, congregation membership more than doubled. She took ill in the early summer of 1935, yet worked in her office every day but her last. She died in 1935, at age 59, and is buried at Villa de Matel.



Earthquake damaged storefronts on Broadway and Elm Street.



After the quake, patients were temporarily cared for in the church across the street.



Temporary hospital after the earthquake.



A Sister and nurse work in the pharmacy.

1923 - 1935 Highlights

- 1924 – The 2.2 square mile Signal Hill area incorporates to avoid annexation by the City of Long Beach. Its first mayor is Jessie Nelson, a writer and leader in the battle for independence from Long Beach.
- 1926 – The Port of Long Beach becomes a deep-water port capable of handling the largest freighters afloat. The Port serves 881 vessels moving more than a million tons of cargo.



C-47's being manufactured at Douglas Aircraft Plant in Long Beach. c. 1942

070

A Defining Decade: The Great Depression and World War II

After a wait of six long years during which economic hardship and mother nature gave everyone pause, a one-year \$300,000 fundraising campaign headed by William J. Reid, chairman of Hancock Oil, breaks ground on February 3, 1936 for a new St. Mary Hospital. In July 1937, the move from its “temporary” four-year home to a four-story, brick-faced steel and concrete building is celebrated with an open house. The new hospital is said to be both fire-proof and earthquake-proof. Construction costs total \$311,368, exceeding the budget by more than \$50,000 due to a construction strike and high material costs. On September 8, 1937, the new hospital admits its first surgical patient. In 1940, the St. Mary maternity ward boasted eleven bassinets with the common baby bathing performed in a large porcelain sink in the next room. A physician and nurse shortage during the war only exacerbates a perpetually overcrowded St. Mary Hospital. Early 1946 brings the Sisters approval for a major expansion at St. Mary, and the new Hill-Burton Act authorizes the first federal financial assistance packages for hospital construction.



The hospital's maternity ward, 1940.



Sister Alphonsus prepares the emergency room suite.



Sisters' new hospital on 10th Street.

1936 - 1946 Highlights

- 1937 – The final section of the nation’s first transcontinental highway is selected. Officially Route 6, but known along its path as Roosevelt Highway, White Pole Road or King’s Highway, the 3,700-mile roadway directly connects the tip of Cape Cod on the Atlantic with Long Beach’s Pacific shoreline.
- 1938 – The Breakers Hotel is sold to Texas hotelier Conrad Hilton, who renames it the Long Beach Hilton as it becomes the eighth hotel in his expanding chain.
- 1940 – Douglas Aircraft breaks ground for its new, 11-building facility on a 200-acre Long Beach site it had bought for \$1,000. The manufacturing center covers 1.5 million square feet and before the war ends will create and fill 40,000 new jobs
- 1942 – In February, a Japanese submarine reportedly surfaces near Santa Monica and shells a gasoline depot. The next night, a sub is sighted off the coast of Long Beach, but never found. The third night, a report of Japanese aircraft off Long Beach awakens shoreline anti-aircraft guns. Six Americans die, three from “friendly fire” and three from heart attacks. The government announced the whole thing was a false alarm.



Francis Townsend, M.D.

“Late-bloomer” Francis Townsend had been a failed Illinois farmer and luckless Gold Rush miner who held a number of jobs before settling on a career in medicine, graduating from medical school at age 40. A decade later, he closed his North Dakota practice and enlisted in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. After WWI, Townsend came to Long Beach and eventually became Long Beach’s assistant director of public health. That job vanished after the 1933 earthquake and Dr. Townsend found himself, at age 66, with no job, no savings and no prospects. Frustrated at his plight and that of other seniors, Dr. Townsend sent a letter to the newspaper proposing that the federal government pay everyone over 60 who has no job a monthly check of \$200; the plan to be financed with a two-percent federal tax on commercial purchases. As more learned about it, the “Townsend Plan” became popular nationwide. An early petition sent to Washington from Long Beach, alone, contained 75,000 signatures. The movement eventually boasted 2.2 million members in 7,000 Townsend Clubs across the nation. President Franklin Roosevelt opposed the grassroots plan, but many credit Townsend with forcing the president to come up with his own plan. The Social Security System, endorsed by FDR during his campaign for a second term in 1935, issued its first assistance check in 1940. Dr. Townsend died in Los Angeles in 1960.



The North Wing at St. Mary Hospital, which opened in 1949 behind the 1937 building, increased capacity from 100 to 253 beds.

Hospital Expansion Supported by the Community

As World War II ends, the United States emerges as the world's financial and industrial powerhouse. By 1947 St. Mary Hospital is breaking ground for a six-story, \$2 million expansion. E.R. Campbell of Long Beach is the general contractor for what will become the hospital's new "North Wing." Hotelier Conrad Hilton becomes familiar with the project and fast friends with Sister Alphonsus Tallon, a supervisory floor nurse who tends the needs of Conrad's mother, a cardiac patient. On October 2, 1949, the new 150-bed facility is dedicated with Archbishop James Francis McIntyre presiding. The project increases the capacity of St. Mary to 253 beds and 75 bassinets. In the early 1950s, the federal government starts reimbursing hospitals for indigent care, the Long Beach Freeway opens, and a new Outpatient Department begins providing pre-natal and pediatric care for low-income families. In its first year, the department handles 1,300 patient visits. The St. Mary Hospital Guild is formed in 1954 by Mrs. Joseph Madden and a dozen friends, who attract 55 charter-member volunteers. The Guild opens a gift shop in the hospital and pledges \$35,000 toward the cost of a new "Cobalt" radiation machine for cancer treatments. With the Guild's gift, a \$100,000 Ford Foundation grant, and generous gifts from Douglas Aircraft and North American Aviation, the center opens in December of 1957 – the first such unit in Long Beach.



Sister Alphonsus Tallon

Sister Mary Alphonsus Tallon was a pillar of strength at St. Mary Medical Center for almost 70 years. Born Bridget Tallon in Ireland, she was inspired by pictures of nuns doing charitable work in Hawaii and decided to enter the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in Texas. She sailed to Houston at age 16 to continue religious studies and begin nursing school. She was received in the Congregation in 1929 and in 1932 she graduated as a registered nurse, taking the name Sister Alphonsus. In 1933, she was assigned to St. Mary as a surgical nurse. When the hospital was destroyed during that year's earthquake, Sr. Alphonsus was among the staff that cared for injured patients and citizens on the lawn and in temporary settings. She returned to Houston in 1934 to complete religious studies and postgraduate work in surgical nursing. Sr. Alphonsus returned to the newly built St. Mary's in 1937 to resume her work and ministry. She worked in every nursing unit, and from 1950 until 1974 she was supervisor of the surgical floors. In 1974, Sr. Alphonsus became the hospital's first official Patient Representative. Hailed as the spirit of St. Mary Medical Center, Sr. Alphonsus was a compassionate and dedicated nurse, and an important part of the hospital's legacy. She died in 2004, at age 96, at the Villa de Matel, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in Houston.



The St. Mary Guild, founded in 1954, had 55 charter members in 1955. The generous guild has raised nearly \$5 million dollars in charitable support for vital programs and services at the hospital.



The St. Mary's Belles were a volunteer group founded by the St. Mary Medical Center Guild.



Conrad Hilton with his mother Mrs. Mary Hilton.

1947 - 1959 Highlights

- 1947 – On November 2, millionaire Howard Hughes pilots his giant Spruce Goose off the surface of Long Beach Bay for its first and only flight.
- 1955 – St. Mary Hospital performs the first cardio catheterization in city history.
- 1958 – First artificial kidney treatment in Long Beach is provided by St. Mary Hospital.
- 1959 – St. Mary Hospital performs the city's first open heart surgery using a heart pump.



View of the Bauer Hospital - St. Mary Medical Center, which opened in 1974 and featured the most modern Intensive Care facilities on the West Coast.

A Hospital Transformed

The 1960s saw the healthcare delivery industry slowly convert from a system where patients paid for their own care to one dominated by employee-paid health insurance; healthcare providers set their fees and insurance paid the bills, with surpluses paying for indigent care. In May, 1962, St. Mary Hospital dedicates its new five-story East Wing, a \$6 million facility supported by \$1.3 million in community gifts. The addition brings St. Mary patient capacity to 349 and offers state-of-the-art cardiac, emergency, respiratory and maternity care. Additional hospital volunteers came with the formation of the Blue Ladies; the blue-jacketed group becomes the Auxiliary two years hence, providing patient companionship, escorts, and representatives, as well as bookkeeping and library assistants. To meet growing needs, the decision is made to build a ten-story addition, along with a new chapel and convent. The \$10 million project will add 230 new beds, including 60 beds for intensive care, and raze the 1937 and 1949 buildings. Philanthropists Modestus and Evalyn Bauer commit \$4 million to the project. Ground is broken for the Bauer Hospital/St. Mary Hospital on October 18, 1970. Facing Linden, the tower has three elevators, a communication system connecting all nurses' stations and single-patient private rooms throughout. Larger emergency and outpatient clinics will be built, as well as high-tech laboratory, radiology, nuclear medicine and intensive and coronary care units. St. Mary Medical Center Foundation is formed with a 50-member fundraising board of trustees and a 100-member hospital board is formed to act as ambassadors and liaisons with the greater Long Beach community. In 1971, construction begins as well on the Bauer Professional Building for physician and medical staff offices. St. Mary Hospital, a quality medical services provider for the community, becomes St. Mary Medical Center, a community-based medical center at the forefront of medical science and technology that will serve the city and beyond.



The Blue Ladies, named for the color of their jackets, became the St. Mary Medical Center Auxiliary.



Dr. Irvin Unger with the heart/lung machine.

1960 - 1973 Highlights

- 1962 – St. Mary Hospital Emergency Department passes the 10,000 visits mark and births top 3,000.
- 1965 – The U. S. Congress creates Medicare and Medicaid to provide healthcare insurance for, respectively, senior citizens and the poor of all ages.
- 1968 – The first Coronary Care Unit in Long Beach opens at St. Mary Hospital.
- 1970 – The first hemodialysis unit in Long Beach opens at St. Mary Hospital.
- 1973 – St. Mary Hospital celebrates 50th anniversary.



Evalyn and Modestus Bauer

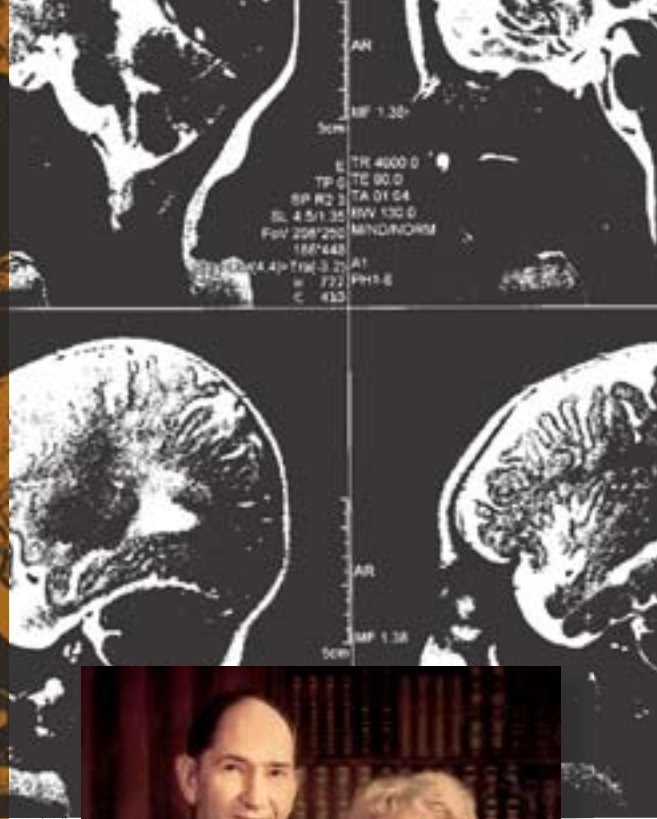
“Mo” Bauer was just eighteen when his father died, and any chance the Chicago boy had to follow in his physician-father’s footsteps died with him. He began selling real estate for prominent businessman Louis Rathje. Soon, Mo married Evalyn, a Canadian immigrant, and began to earn stature in rough and tumble Chicago. By the end of World War I, Mo was president of a local bank owned by he and Rathje. In 1922, Mo cashed out with \$200,000 and worked full-time managing his money with a portfolio valued at almost \$1 million by 1929. After the Crash, he was worth just \$700. He borrowed \$3,000 and plunged back into the market, buying depressed railroad bonds. In fifteen years, Mo, at age 55, had amassed a second fortune, this one estimated at \$20 million! He and Evalyn retired to Long Beach. Mo’s connection to St. Mary Medical Center began with a near-death experience. One day, Mo was struck by a truck and brought to St. Mary, where he languished in a coma for almost five months. Sister Alphonsus kept a near-constant vigil at his bedside and, as he recovered, a strong and lasting personal bond was formed. Mo Bauer died in April 1979, Evalyn the following year. The Evalyn M. Bauer Foundation remains a generous supporter of St. Mary Medical Center.



St. Mary and our Level II Trauma Center serves as a paramedic base station and the designated Disaster Resource Center for Long Beach and southern L.A. County.

Reaching Out, a New Beginning

It's official. St. Mary Hospital is, as of December 3, 1975, formally re-named St. Mary Medical Center, reflecting a new dedication to reaching out both deeper into the Long Beach community and beyond its borders with an unparalleled level of care. The jewel in the newly expanded health care campus is the year-old, ten-story, \$15 million Bauer Tower, sheathed in a special concrete that will allow the building to sway and weave safely during an earthquake. Our bed capacity rises from 341 to 550 beds. Expansion continues with the opening of the John Edward Parr Health Enhancement Center for free public education. In 1984, we open a tri-level parking garage for 1,150 vehicles. The next year, St. Mary Tower opens on Atlantic Avenue, offering 148 apartments for low-income seniors and the handicapped. The nation's first managed-care network for HIV-positive patients is launched at St. Mary in 1986; CARE (Comprehensive AIDS/HIV Resource & Education) is heralded as a model for HIV programs nationwide. A growing population sees our crowded emergency department expand in 1991 and become a Level II trauma center. By the early 1990s, the Sisters' ranks begin to thin, and managed care, coupled with the sharply rising cost of services and supplies, exerts growing financial pressure on the nation's independent hospitals. A new chapter begins in our history, as the Sisters agree to associate St. Mary and its companion hospital, St. Bernardine in San Bernardino, with Catholic Healthcare West, the then second largest healthcare system in California.



Anna and Harold Glenn

Do-it-yourself mechanics had been tinkering on cars for decades, trying to keep the family car on the road and avoid expensive repairs. There were millions of them after World War II. Harold Glenn is one of them. The difference is, he writes down exactly what he does and how he does it. Harold and Anna married in 1935 and settle in Long Beach. Anna and Harold are both teachers. The Glenn's lived on a tight budget, so saving money was a priority. Harold decided he could earn extra money by writing a book on car repairs for backyard mechanics. Chilton Books agreed to publish his first manual. The Glenn Auto Repair Manual became the must-have guide for amateur mechanics. Harold followed that success with writing repair manuals for motorcycles, outboard motors, and bicycles. Soon, his 1,200-page manual on repairing American cars can be found in every commercial garage and gas station nationwide. As new models are introduced, new books are needed for repair shops to keep pace with the changes. The books make Harold a wealthy man. Harold dies in 1977 at age 67 and Anna, who reputedly never learned to drive, lived to be over 100 years old. The Glenn's have no children, and their entire \$1.7 million dollar estate is bequeathed to St. Mary in appreciation to Sister Mary Alphonsus Tallon and the entire hospital for decades of excellent care at the bedside and friendship.



Sheila Hanley and Gordon James celebrate the upcoming hospital Gala Dinner.



Vince Esposito, M.D., long-time chair of the hospital's successful Charity Golf Tournament, with Sister Mary Alphonsus Tallon.

1974 - 1996 Highlights

- 1974 - The first CAT (computer-aided tomography) scan unit in Long Beach is launched.
- 1976 - Dr. Orville Cole establishes the nation's first low-vision center at St. Mary.
- 1978 - Genevieve van Dugteren, 88, is honored for her 11,000 volunteer hours since becoming the Auxiliary's first volunteer in 1966. To date, Auxiliary members have donated 332,480 hours.
- 1979 - The Pike, one of the most popular amusement parks on the west coast closes after seventy-seven years of operation.
- 1983 - Our Emergency Department, headed by Steve Shea, M.D., is featured on an HBO Special, "Life & Death in the Emergency Room."
- 1993 - The first St. Mary Charity Golf Tournament, brainchild of Dr. Vincent Esposito, raising \$37,000 to benefit the Shots for Tots Program. By its 18th year, the event had raised almost \$3 million for hospital services.



St. Mary Medical Center

Since
1923,
A Legacy
of Quality
Care
Built on
Compassion
and
Excellence.



St. Mary Medical Center
Main Entrance



Mary and Steve Sandberg
Medical Promenade

"Praise God
From Whom All
Blessings Flow"

Dedicated to serving the community, St. Mary Medical Center provided \$47 million in uncompensated and charity programs to the Long Beach region in 2011-2012.

Hello humankindness

All for One, One for All

St. Mary's next era of growth begins with the 75th anniversary in 1998, a celebration with thousands of guests, including sisters that travelled from Texas, Utah, and Arkansas and a mass led by Cardinal Roger Mahoney. Hospital leaders complete a campaign for capital improvements, program support, and the endowment of community outreach. The two-year effort, chaired by Jim Ackerman and Sr. Alphonsus Tallon, raises more than \$29 million. The expansion of services for the community continues in 2001 with the opening of the Mary Hilton Family Health Center. In 2003, St. Mary Medical Center celebrates its 80th anniversary highlighted by a \$7.3 million campaign to renovate patient rooms. St. Mary Medical Center now serves as the only regional teaching hospital for the UCLA School of Medicine. In 2010, the highlighted services include 3,000 births a year, a comprehensive Cancer Center, Cardiac Center, Rehabilitation Institute, Older Adult Services and Bariatric Surgery Center. In 2012, new St. Mary President and CEO Tom Salerno says a key to continued success is our Emergency and Trauma Center, ranked in the top 5% nationwide and home to a regional Disaster Resources Center. In 2013, we celebrate our 90th anniversary of the healing ministry of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word. As we begin a new era in the healthcare industry with the Affordable Care Act, it's with great enthusiasm that we look into the future.



The Mobile Care Clinic vehicle is part of the new St. Mary Breathe Easy Mobile Outreach Program launched thanks to an \$834,000 grant from the Port of Long Beach.



St Mary's commitment to excellence includes a Siemens 64 slice CT scanner.

1997 - 2013 Highlights

- 2001 – Sister M. Alphonsus Tallon retires after 75 years, almost all of which were spent at St. Mary. The hospital's Intensive Care Unit is dedicated in her honor.
- 2004 – 50th anniversary of the Guild. Projects have included: Hospitality Cart, St. Mary Gift Shop, Cardiac Services, Hemodialysis, Senior Programs, Women's Health Services, Rehabilitation Services, Recovery Room renovations, Labor & Delivery, Radiology, Intensive Care, and the Security Dog.
- 2010 – Dr. Vince Esposito ends his 18-year run as chair of the annual Charity Golf Tournament, which has raised almost \$3 million for healthcare programs over the years.
- 2011 – Community outreach features Comprehensive AIDS Resource Education (C.A.R.E.) Program and Clinic, St. Mary Sabina Sullivan Women's Health Center, Low Vision Center, The Families in Good Health Program (FiGH), and Senior Center.
- 2012 – Catholic Healthcare West changes its name to Dignity Health, now the largest not-for-profit healthcare system in the west.
- 2013 – Now in its 32nd year, the St. Mary Foundation's Annual Auction and Dinner is one of the premier events in Long Beach, raising \$12 million for the hospital over the years. Starting in 2004, a Life Achievement Award was added to the special event.



Marcella and Henry Poitras

Many Long Beach people remember Henry Poitras as a successful accountant and ardent sailor, and others recall his 2002 gift of \$1 million to St. Mary Medical Center in memory of his wife, Marcella. Most visitors have seen the Poitras' portrait hanging in our Main Lobby that is named in their honor, as is our cancer research center. But few know that Massachusetts-born Henry Poitras had been a mountain-road construction worker and top high-school athlete who, at 20, played semi-professional baseball before joining the U.S. Navy in 1936, where he helped search the Pacific for lost aviatrix Amelia Earhart. Discharged in Long Beach, he meets Marcella, but heads to Texas to play third base on the Big Spring Bombers, the minor league team owned by the Brooklyn Dodgers. Then Pearl Harbor is attacked. Henry quits baseball to join the U.S. Merchant Marine. Discharged five years later, he is too old to make a third try for the big leagues. Henry and Marcella head back to New England where Henry studies accounting. They return to Long Beach in the late 1940s, and Henry opens his own firm, launching a successful career. Henry and Marcella spend spare hours coastal cruising on their sailboat and volunteer for the 1984 Olympic sailing trials. In late 1990, Marcella is admitted to St. Mary as a cancer patient, goes into remission for a time, but dies of the disease in 1992. Henry's 2002 memorial gift targets cancer research and equipment. He died in 2005, at age 88.

Thank You

On behalf of St. Mary Medical Center Foundation, we thank you for taking the time to peruse this brief, but we hope powerful, history of St. Mary Medical Center and our hometown. With these selected images, messages, and biographies, we hope to have given you a lasting sense of this institution, of the sacrifice of those who nurtured it, and of the groundbreaking medical advances that have taken place here. Most of all, however, we hope you turn this final page confident of the continuing caring and compassion that has been brought to Long Beach by our beloved Sisters. It is their inspiration in faith that we have always treasured and whose guiding hand will forever rest gently on the shoulders of us all.

Drew Gagner

St. Mary Medical Center Foundation, President

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Hospital Today

Who Will Be Present



"To the greater honor and glory of God and the relief of suffering humanity" will be the theme of the dedication of the new St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach today. Among the notables to be in attendance are Archbishop John I. Cantwell, upper left; Governor Frank F. Merriam, upper right; Superior Judge Walter J. Desmond, lower left, and Very Rev. W. J. Stewart, V. F., lower right. The ceremonial will begin at 4 P. M. at Tenth Street and Linden Avenue.

Short Street Busy.

CLEVELAND, July 17.—(UE)—Twenty-five different car lines and two city bus lines are routed over Ontario Street, which is less than a mile long. Yet no line travels the length of the street.

Desk Carving Wanes.

ASHTABULA, Ohio, July 17.—(UE)—Teachers at the high school report that desk-carving is becoming a lost art. Desks scraped and sanded almost a year ago now are virtually unmarked.

★ FREE PARKING

THE NEW STRAND

THEATRE, 235 W. Pike

... wishes to express its congratulations on the opening of the new

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

At the STRAND

★ ALWAYS 2 BIG HIT FEATURES

It Has Been Our Privilege

TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO FURNISH COMPLETE THE NEW

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

Drapes, Rubber Flooring, Furniture

Aaron Schultz
FURNITURE OF QUALITY
321 AMERICAN

Opposite Post Office



★
A TRIBUTE TO PURITY AND TO QUALITY

★ The Selection of

MOUNTAIN VIEW DAIRY

Products by the New

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

Complete Range of Dairy Products At Your Door or at Your Store

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THE splendid new St. Mary's Hospital edifice is another material evidence of the great and all-encompassing work of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in the interests of mankind . . .

Mottell's
MORTUARY & CHAPEL

