City of Appleton petitioned the Sisters of St. Louis to start a hospital in Appleton. Two Sisters went to Appleton to review the offer, but no agreement with the city fathers was reached, so the project was abandoned until...

When a second offer was made and accepted. Four Sisters arrived to start a hospital in a small frame building. A few days after they arrived a doctor brought a patient on a wagon to their door. They had no beds or materials. The doctors and neighbors came to their rescue with bare needs and they began admitting patients.

In summer the Sisters used a shed for their summer kitchen; the other kitchen served as Chapel during the summer. A set of barrels and boards served as their dining room table; the floor was bare earth. Neighbors, observing the extreme poverty of the Sisters, helped as much as they could. One man donated a bread board, rolling pin, and meat board.

In the first fourteen months of operation, the hospital had admitted 108 patients and performed 95 operations. Of this number five died, four of serious accident wounds and one of cancer (at age 72).

The Sisters purchased an adjoining eight-acre parcel for $6,025.

Construction began on a new hospital, which was under roof by December, 1900 and dedicated in...

at a celebration of Mass and dedication by Bishop Messmer. The hospital had 24 beds (with a maximum possible of 48) and contained offices, employee residence quarters, and a convent.

During 1901 a three-story powerhouse and laundry building were erected (which included four rooms for communicable diseases).

Doctor Rush Winslow died. He had been instrumental in bringing the Sisters to Appleton and helping get the hospital started.

The Sisters went on begging tours each year for donations of food, vegetables, fruit, grain, money. A lady named "Annie" drove them in her father's wagon.

The Sisters purchased two more acres for $3,000. They could now have a large garden, space for 300 chickens, sheep, and six cows donated by John Bouten, who then became an employee of the hospital in laundry and maintenance until 1946.

The Chapel building was erected east of the original hospital building.

A May newspaper article stated that from 1900-1918 the hospital cared for 13,433 patients (at an average cost of $10 per week!), and noted that if these patients had hired a trained nurse at $25 per week the cost for care would have been 150% more.

A campaign was begun in May, 1920, to raise $500,000. Messrs. Wertheimer and Sensenbrenner headed the campaign, which was to finance a hospital of 200 beds. The Sisters pledged $200,000, and manufacturers and businesses in the Fox River Valley pledged $120,000.

The medical staff of the hospital was organized and in...

was approved by the American College of Surgeons.

In July the new hospital was dedicated. It accommodated 150 patients in single, double, and three and four-bed rooms. New items seen for the first time were beds with backrests, flexible knee rests, terrazzo floors, refrigeration, and electric clocks.
2,872 patients were admitted.

Industrial accidents at Wisconsin Power and Light (12 men injured) and Kimberly-Clark's Kimberly Mill (30 men injured) taxed the facilities of the hospital.

3,989 patients were admitted.

A train derailment sent 59 people to St. E's for treatment; all eventually recovered.

First polio patient was admitted.

Penicillin was used for the first time at St. E's.

First approved intensive care unit in Wisconsin opened at St. Elizabeth Hospital.

Special Studies department was initiated (known then as "Body Functions" department). Air conditioning was installed.

The first cobalt Theratron treatment was done.

Nuclear Medicine department started.

A $9.5 million expansion project was completed which added 100 beds.

Remote cardiac monitoring established.

Emergency services were consolidated at St. Elizabeth Hospital.

Pastoral Care Department formed under direction of Father Charles Brooks.

The Education Department was formed. "Fullness of Life" program was instituted.

Around-the-clock coverage of the emergency room was begun.

A $400,000 remodelling/relocation project was done, relocating the Psychiatry Unit, and opening a CCU and medical nursing unit.

The hospital was staffed by more than 875 people.

The St. Elizabeth Hospital Foundation was incorporated.

Valley Family Practice opened the first physicians' office building adjacent to the hospital.

Ground was broken for a $4.5 million expansion of Radiology, Laboratory, and Emergency Departments.

The Night Chaplaincy program was begun.

The CT Scanner was acquired by Radiology Department.

The American Medical Association accredited the Appleton Hospitals' Continuing Medical Education Program. There were 134 Active and Associate Medical Staff members, 53 Courtesy Staff.

Medical Arts Clinic was opened adjacent to the hospital.

Fox Valley Shared Health Services, Inc., a shared marketing organization, was formed by Appleton Memorial Hospital and St. Elizabeth Hospital.

The Stress Management Department was opened.

A Study Team consisting of Sisters, members of the governing boards and medical staffs of the two Appleton Hospitals, and consultants, was formed to make recommendations regarding the future development of health care delivery in Appleton. As a result of this effort...

A separate management corporation, United Health Services, Inc., was formed by the two institutions.
1980 A Home Care program was initiated to provide care for patients not requiring hospitalization but needing some skilled nursing care. A Hospice program was started to complement the home care concept and to provide care for dying patients.

jm
10/80