

## Memories That Share

In 1965 I wandered into Battle Creek carrying a graphic art portfolio, determined to find a job. I had recently graduated from Kendall School Of Design and was confident that I would make a mark somewhere. I had several interviews and was eventually hired by Hilltop Advertising as a graphic artist. The Agency was located on the top floor of the Battle Creek Equipment Company, and as most of you know, a manufacturer of health and exercise products.

I met some of the employees of the equipment company and made a few friends. Larry Keiser, who now works at the Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce, was one of them. Although we were about the same age, we both shared the same erroneous assumption. He thought I was a high paid executive, and I thought he was. Occasionally, we would walk the halls and chat. One noon he took me into the basement and my eyes were instantly drawn to this big, old contraption that strongly resembled a giant electric chair. Larry introduced me to my first meeting with the Battle Creek Sanitarium. That old contraption, as it turned out, was a piece of health equipment that represented a historic collaboration between Dr. John Harvey Kellogg

and Wendell Doty, the founder of the Battle Creek Equipment Company. I can't remember if I sat in it or not, but it became part of a long running series of comic, employee motivation one liners. Although we made light of the old "electric chair" I became fascinated with the health care magnet, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, who changed the way the world, of that era, would think about healing.

The former San, and now the home of the Hart, Dole, Inouye Federal Center is a place of a million memories and ten thousand stories. I've walked the grounds and toured the inside. All the while it seemed as though all those memories and stories were vying to get my attention. A few years ago, Scene staff photographer, Nate Zanotti, and I were there taking pictures. Quite suddenly it seemed as though Nate must have been caught by one of those ghosts who helped him unlock somebody else's distant memory...Nate couldn't possibly be that old. As we walked, Nate began telling me of the time he used to see Dr. John Harvey Kellogg. Nate, as a youngster, worked on Dr. Kellogg's Dickman Road farm. From time to time, Dr. Kellogg would drive up in a chauffeured driven automobile and check the workers' progress and, of course, tell Nate it might be wise for him to eat more

vegetables.

As we were going over the stories for this special 100th anniversary issue, I read that former Michigan Governor John Swainson had once been a patient at the hospital. It immediately reminded me of the time an old buddy of mine swore that he knew Governor Swainson personally, and won a dinner and a few bucks from his friend when he proved it. The Governor was dining at Schuler's Restaurant, and my friend walked over to the Governor and mentioned how glad he was to see him and how great it was to have worked on one of his campaigns. Politicians never waver, and the governor gladly remembered a person he never met. He invited him to sit down for a minute and treated him as an old friend. My friend, of course, counted on that. Oh well. A million memories, ten thousand stories. In this issue of Scene, please search for the ones that help you share some of yours.

We want to give all of our advertisers and writers a special thanks, as well as, all the members of the 100th Anniversary Centennial Committee. Without all of their help, it would have been impossible to bring you this gift...A collector's issue of Scene Magazine.

# Scene

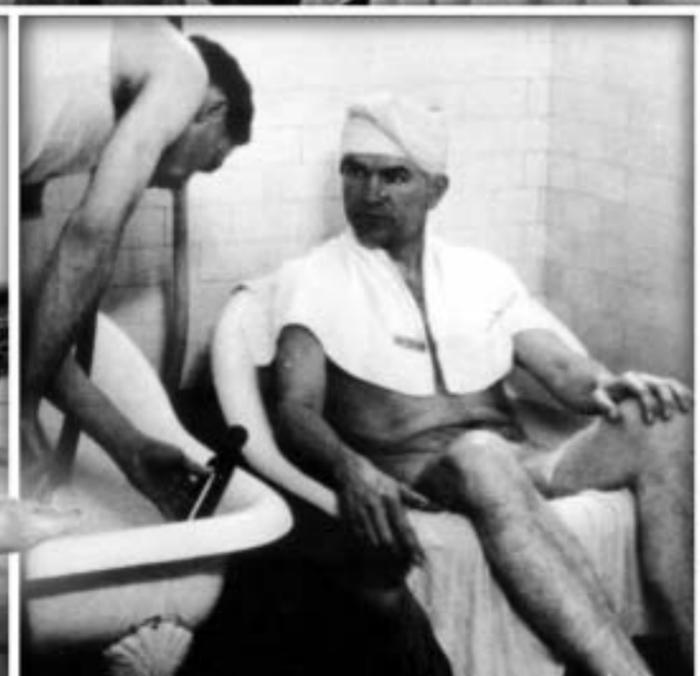
M A G A Z I N E



A CENTURY OF SERVICE 1903-2003



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DUFF STOLTZ



by Mary Butler, Heritage Battle Creek

## The “Battle Creek Idea” at the Sanitarium

For a century the massive building on North Washington has dominated the west side of Battle Creek. Since 1928 the fourteen-story towers have defined the city’s skyline. But, as dominant as the building itself is, the idea behind the structure is of lasting significance to the city, the nation and the world. It was here, at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, that the nation’s health was reformed and our modern eating habits were shaped.

The Battle Creek Sanitarium began life in 1866 as the Western Health Reform Institute, based on the visionary ideas of Seventh-day Adventist church founder Ellen White. The institution, and the health reform ideas taught there, were brought to international prominence through the charisma and medical genius of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg.

The Western Health Reform Institute opened on September 5, 1866, as a “water cure and vegetarian institution where a properly balanced God-fearing course of treatments could be made available not only to Adventists, but to the public generally.” The most important part of the mission was to teach not only “sensible remedies” but also instruct patients “how to take care of themselves and thus prevent sickness.”

This mission would continue to guide the Health Reform Institute – and later the Battle Creek Sanitarium – for the next century.

When it opened, the Health Reform Institute offered a unique combination of several currently popular theories of health reform designed to heal the whole person by caring for the mind, body and spirit. The Adventists believed in abstinence from alcohol and tobacco as well as moderation in diet, work and the use of pharmaceutical drugs. The patients were taught to cure themselves whenever possible by using “natural” means, including water, sunshine, exercise, rest and proper diet.

Although the Health Reform Institute enjoyed moderate success in its first years, the Adventists recognized the need for more thoroughly trained staff and professional administration. Accordingly, they partially subsidized the medical education of a local teenager from a prominent Adventist family. In 1875 John Harvey Kellogg graduated from the University of Michigan and the Bellevue Hospital Medical College in New York and returned to Battle Creek to join the Institute staff.

Kellogg was immediately offered the post of medical director. He initially refused, preferring to devote his career to writing and research. The next year he reluctantly agreed to serve as director for one year. That year stretched to 67 as Dr. John Harvey Kellogg remained as medical director until his death in 1943 at the age of 91.

The dynamic doctor immediately launched a series of changes. First, he coined the term “sanitarium” and declared that the Battle Creek Sanitarium was to be a sanitary “place where people learn to stay well.”

Over the next few years Kellogg refined and improved the water therapy treatments, which had been the mainstay of the Health Reform Institute. He added more scientific treatments, revised the diet of the patients, introduced surgery and hired a professionally trained staff. The “San” grew rapidly under his leadership.

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Kellogg continually enlarged the institution's capacity and erected new buildings to accommodate the growing patient load.

Soon the San had its own electrical plant to supply power and several farms to furnish fresh food. Dr. Kellogg's younger brother, Will Keith, came to work at the San as bookkeeper and business manager. The continued growth of the institution was due in no small measure to W. K.'s business acumen. By 1885 the San had become the "largest institution of its kind in the world."

As a San publication boasted, "there existed no other institution which combined the comforts of the home and the hotel with the medical advantages of the hospital and the added facilities and equipment requisite for the administration of baths of every description, electricity in its different forms, medical gymnastics, and other rational agencies, with the careful regulation of diet."

Dr. Kellogg combined all these various treatments under one term – the "Battle Creek Idea, a rational, scientific medical method of health building and training." As soon as a patient arrived at the San he or she received a "complete inventory of the vital assets [which was] used as the basis for subsequent treatment."

The primary treatment was still the water cure, or hydrotherapy. But Dr. Kellogg introduced a "rational" or scientific approach to the "versatile and universal" water cure. The San offered more than 200 varieties of water treatments, including cool, cold, neutral, warm, hot, alternate, percussion and vapor sprays or douches; immersion, shallow, sitz, foot, leg or half-baths; hot, tepid, cool, alternate, saline and alcohol sponging; oil, dry and, alcohol, witch hazel, dry shampoo, wet mitten, towel, half sheet and salt rubs; fomentations, compresses, sinusoidal and galvanic electro-hydric baths, air, hot air, Russian and vapor baths. Many of these "hydraulic applications," which originated at the San, were used in combinations of alternating temperatures and textures to stimulate the circulatory and digestive systems.

Dr. Kellogg believed that "of all the forces of Nature, Sunlight is the most potent, the most beneficent. The more sunlight the body is able to store up, the greater the vital energy and resistance to disease." Sun baths and exercise in the open air were important parts of the San regime. Male patients often exercised outside dressed only in loincloths or "diapers" to expose as much of their bodies as possible to the healing rays of the sun.

In the cold dark Michigan winters, natural sunlight was not always available, so "artificial sunlight" was provided. Dr. Kellogg invented several types of light and radiant heat baths to provide guests with the benefits of sunlight at

any time of the year.

Dr. Kellogg believed that fresh air, especially the clean, cold invigorating winter air, was a vital force in maintaining health. Active outdoor exercise in all seasons of the year was encouraged for all patients. If they could not exercise, guests were placed in wheelchairs, bundled in blankets and taken outdoors for a daily constitutional.

Exercise, indoors or out, was an important element of the "Battle Creek Idea." Kellogg found that "most women and a large proportion of men [were] suffering from deficient muscular development and incorrect posture." Exercise was the cure. Early in his career Kellogg realized that exercise to music was "more agreeable, hence more efficient" than drilling in silence. He developed musical accompaniments for his exercise routines, foreshadowing today's aerobics.

A comprehensive system of "medical gymnastics" was developed to benefit all guests, from bedridden post-surgical patients to overweight and out-of-shape businessmen. After a careful assessment of each patient's muscular strength and conditioning, a daily combination of "light calisthenics, Swedish movements, indoor gymnastics, swimming, outdoor gymnasium work, folk dancing, horseback riding, etc." was prescribed. Swedish massage and a variety of mechanical exercise devices, including vibrating belts, chairs, tables and stools, were popular indoor exercise options. For the feeble patient, automatic or passive exercise was available.

The centerpiece of the "Battle Creek Idea" – and the element which would make the greatest impact on American life – was reforming the eating habits of patients. Dr. Kellogg not only opposed meat eating on moral and religious grounds, but also for health reasons. He felt that man's natural diet should be vegetables, fruits, nuts and grains.

To make this healthy diet appealing to patients, there was constant experimentation in the San's kitchens, under the direction of Ella Eaton Kellogg, the doctor's wife. More than 80 grain and nut-food products were developed there, including such modern staples as peanut butter and flaked, ready-to-eat breakfast foods.

The wheat flake, which launched the breakfast cereal industry, was discovered accidentally in 1894. A female patient had complained that she had broken her dentures on the San's hard zwieback toast. Dr. Kellogg, Ella Eaton and W. K. went to work to develop a product which would be easier for patients to chew and digest. They experimented on a variety of products, none of which proved satisfactory. Finally, after they accidentally left a batch of cooked wheat overnight, the Kelloggs put the material through rollers and per-

fectly formed wheat flakes appeared. This flake, flavored only with salt, was served in the San dining room under the name of "Granose."

On May 31, 1895, Dr. Kellogg filed a patent application for "flaked cereals and the process of preparing same." Although the original flaked cereal was made of wheat, the Kelloggs also listed "barley, oats, corn and other grains" in the patent papers. Despite its inclusion in the list of grains, the corn flake was not successfully manufactured for almost ten years.

By the turn of the century the Sanitarium had become a world-famous institution and was attracting the rich and famous who came to spend weeks at a time cleansing and pampering their bodies. Because of the San's reputation, Battle Creek came to be known as the "health city."

At the height of its fame and influence, disaster struck the San as a fire destroyed the main building and hospital in February 1902. Dr. Kellogg immediately determined to rebuild and on May 31, 1903, a new – and bigger – San was dedicated.

The elaborate façade runs along Washington Avenue for 550 feet. Three wings extend 120 feet in the rear, housing the treatment rooms for men and women and the indoor gymnasium facilities. The lush Palm Garden, with tropical plants and towering rubber trees, joined the wings to the lobby of the main building.

Physicians' offices and parlors occupied the main floor while guestrooms filled the upper floors. Surgical cases were housed on the fifth floor with the operating rooms located at the north end of the top floor. The state of the art kitchens were also on the sixth floor, to keep cooking smells, which travel upward, from distracting guests on the lower floors.

The patients kept coming as the San's reputation continued to grow and the country's economy was booming. By the mid 1920s, even more space was needed. A three million-dollar 14-story addition was completed in 1928, including 600 patient rooms and suites, banquet rooms and medical offices. Opulent interior detailing catered to the tastes of the elegant clientele.

Unfortunately, this was the wrong time to take on millions in debt, as the economy crashed in 1929. The formerly wealthy patients could no longer afford to come to the San and occupancy dropped by 75 percent in the early 1930s. As patronage declined, financial problems threatened the existence of the institution. The San went into receivership in 1933 but continued to operate on a reduced basis.

Finally, in 1942 it was necessary to sell the huge hospital complex to the federal government and to move the San

to smaller quarters in the Fieldstone Annex just a few blocks up Washington Avenue.

But the "Battle Creek Idea" did not disappear when the San itself left the Washington Street building. Most of the radical ideas developed by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg at the San – for which he was often mocked by the medical establishment — have proven to be valid. Fresh air, exercise, moderation in the use of stimulants and a healthy diet now are all recognized as important elements of a healthy life style. The "Battle Creek Idea" lives on in health spas, diet clinics and the exercise rooms in countless American homes.

A CENTURY OF SERVICE 1903-2003



A View of Percy Jones General Hospital, Battle Creek, Mich.



by Jack Curtis

# How Do I Remember Percy Jones

“This is no hospital, this is a hotel,” a strange way to characterize Percy Jones. Not all patients uttered these words, but many of my close PJ buddies did. The phrase was often used when one of our bedmates started bitching or complaining, usually over a trivial matter. And then, when a patient went too far with the likes of a wait-on-me-now attitude, we reversed the slogan and reminded him this is not a hotel, this is a hospital.

As a youngster growing up in Battle Creek, I had lived on Walters Avenue, just up the hill from the Sanitarium. I often explored the grounds of the San. I was amazed by the luxury cars with out-of-state license plates parked in the circular drive. If we were lucky, we played croquet on the manicured court. We were chased off only to return again and again. We got into the San gym where we were often asked to leave, but not in a really unfriendly way, so back we would come.



I had enlisted in the Aviation Cadets in December 1942. At that time I was working at Kellogg Company on the six to mid-night shift. After work, I would drive to Western Michigan where I shared a room with Lincoln Pilling. Slept a few hours, returned to Battle Creek, ate and went to work. Many of those workweeks were six and seven days. Lincoln became a fighter pilot and I a Navigator. Little did I realize that my youthful playground would become my hospital. By the time I was wounded, I knew that the San had become Percy Jones Army Hospital in early 1943. (Later Percy Jones General Hospital)

I doubt that there was another place on earth that would fit our needs so well. There were those severely injured and barely alive and those who were recovering quite well. Among them were quadruple amputees (amps), triple amps, double amps, and hundreds of amputees with parts of arms and/or legs missing or severely damaged. While Percy Jones was thought of as primarily

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*En route to assignment. A commission as a Navigator.*



*The porch of Ward 15 at the Annex. That's me in the front and Danny Inouye on the far left.*

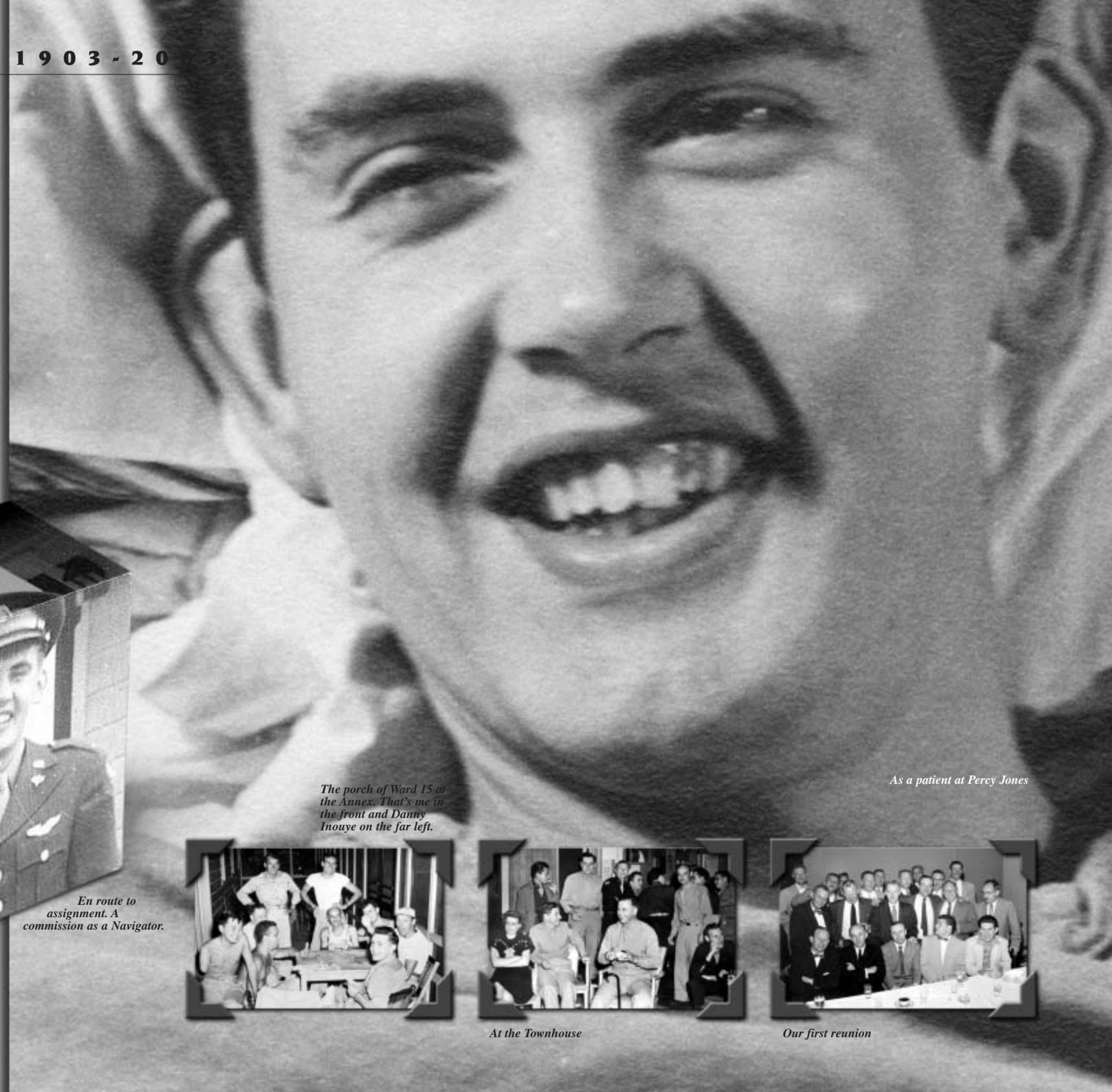


*At the Townhouse*



*Our first reunion*

*As a patient at Percy Jones*





One of the nurses who attended our second reunion.

an orthopedic/amputee hospital, there were many plastic surgery patients, those with neurological problems, those with memory loss and other types of injuries.

As a group, we were winding down from the unknown where we knew not what the day would hold for us, such as being POW's or those in daily front line combat and others whose exposure to danger was less frequent. The evidence of our experience was not just scars or missing parts, but the infamous "battle dreams" for those who continued to fight war nightly. Often, the rooms were filled with cries, moans, profanity, and shouts.

The physical arrangement was typically ward rooms, with as many as 12 beds, and also some rooms for 3 or 4 beds. Whether planned or a matter of building configuration, the grouping was fortuitous. The camaraderie forced or planned played right into our hands, as the bedmate interactions were a big part of the healing process. Those who did not join in the often-irreverent interplay and exchanges, like those who just plain gave up, often did not progress towards healing like the others. Many had a severe injury and yet could tolerate ribbing, such as, "Look you've got a million-dollar injury, stubby" or "You have a pretty bad hangnail there buddy."

Those who tried to buck the patient imposed informal system either conformed or found themselves as minor outcasts bucking an irreversible system.

The food was good, not just so much better than what you had been used to. As one who had lost about 70 pounds as a POW, I got a bottle of milk in one corner of my tray and the mayonnaise jar in the other, milk shakes mid-afternoon and later a beer or so to aid in the fattening process.

The staff was super. Many of the ladies wound up as a wife to one of their human wards. Who could forget, "Emily, you old bat get in here?" Emily Nee Rich is now living in Florida.

Many top entertainers played PJ, such as Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Stan Kenton, and Dinah Shore. Like for many others, Dinah sat on my bed, held my hand and sang "Memphis Blues". When I heard she was coming, I told Special Services that as a POW we were in a sub-basement room. We had a wind up record player with three records. One was Dinah's "Memphis Blues" and that we had played it hundreds of times.

The doctors were greatly respected. They were fondly "doc" to all. One, a Doctor Gilfallen was truly loved. His miracle amputee work endeared him to many. The top orthopedic doctor, McKeever, had the same, great respect.

One very funny incident involved a patient with severe bone, muscle and nerve injuries to his lower arm and hand. When he returned from convalescent leave, his identical twin brother came along. We prevailed upon him to don hospital pajamas and get in the patient brother's bed for ward rounds. The double take on the doctor's face when he viewed what appeared to be a miracle recovery was an unforgettable sight. The doctor took it in the proper spirit.

Most of the patients would be considered to be youngsters. None quite so

much as the decorated pilot Captain who could have passed for a high school junior. He was nicknamed Junior. He could never buy a drink outright. He had to produce a liquor card. Larry Jenkins today lives in Climax, Michigan. Larry had been a POW after being shot down over Vienna. I had been a POW, chiefly in Graz, Austria. Eventually, I got to Rheims France. It was a staging area for former prisoners. When it came my time to be transported to the airport for transfer to the United States, I shared the ambulance with a patient who had been severely burned. Whenever the ambulance hit a small bump he would groan and groan. The driver slowed the ambulance and when we got to the flight line, the plane had already left. Back to the staging area. That night as I lay awake in my bed, a patient several beds down lit a cigarette, and of course, we started a conversation. "Where are you from?" "Battle Creek."

Later, an orderly said, "I think we have a patient with us in the group that came in today from Battle Creek." I asked, "Was it the one who crutched through here today down to the window at the end of the room?" "Yes, do you know him?" "Sure do; went to high school with him." Neither of us recognized the other right off, probably because of the severe weight loss each had suffered. Later we joined each other in General Hospital #1 in Paris and later spent about two years together as patients at PJ. We have been close friends and for forty years and we've fished in Ontario each spring. We are both active in the American Ex-Prisoners of War Organization and are both classified as 100% disabled by the Veterans Administration.

There was another youngster who was highly decorated who has served in the US senate for more than 40 years, Daniel Inouye. To us he was always Ding Ho. Danny was one of the most popular of patients. He partied with us regularly. I was fortunate enough to get a priority to buy a new automobile. And since I had not been paid for more than a year, I purchased a new Oldsmobile. Since it had an automatic transmission I could drive it. Danny was fascinated with the thought of driving a car. So, I purchased a spinner for the steering wheel and with my tutoring, he could drive around and around the Annex complex.

Another was the college sophomore, a flash on the track team and on the gridiron, wound up playing a very credible game of golf on crutches despite an AK (amputation below the knee). He also was the one who helped write the words to the irreverent ditty, "Percy Jones, Percy Jones, where they cut off all your bones." Then there was Herbie,

a double leg amp who often went to the Sky Club in his wheel chair; his date learned to dance with him on the dance floor – wheel chair and all!

There was the tough Detroit Cop named Harry. Lighthorse Harry was not so tough, but how he loved to party. There was another fighter pilot, later an attorney who was mentioned as a possible candidate for governor. The six foot six Detroit attorney was an above the knee amp who's prosthesis was monstrous. This vignette of Percy Jones would not be complete without inclusion of O'Shaughnessy, the resident entertainer. His pay never lasted until the next payday. We could not bear not having him in the party group, so we would regularly pay his way. There were guard/gate keepers at each end of Dickman Road through the Fort, the location of the Annex. Shadrack, O'Shaughnessy's nickname, was aware that when they stopped the cars they opened the trunk. Shad insisted we put him in the trunk, which we did, and needless to say he startled the guard – big time – when the trunk was opened. This merely added to our reputation as a group to watch out for.

A very popular group was that of the Cadet nurses. A number left their training married to a patient. They were stationed at the Annex. This article would not be complete without that part of the PJ story. The Annex was a complex of barracks near the southwest end of Dickman road. The barracks had been converted to house patients. The Annex consisted of some 15 or 20 barracks and the officers were primarily in numbers 10 to 15. At the end of a long hall that connected all the barracks was a club where the less ambulatory spent time. One of the real plusses was Eagle Lake with its snack bar and great swimming beach. It was just over the hill from the complex of barracks. Not the greatest in cold weather, they consisted of two offices, a kitchen, latrine, 3 or 4 single bedrooms and a large wardroom of some 24 beds. This was the healing arena. Privacy, forget it, and again the closeness, the camaraderie, and the informal needling system did its fine work. Many of the patients there were getting around with wheel chairs. The club was at the end of a row of probably 12 barracks and there were several rows. The club sold beer, but you brought your own bottle. Liquor was rationed, but with a copy of a leave order you could buy a bottle. "Well, who are you tonight, Captain Curtis?", said the drug store clerk. Everyone went out of their way to cater to the patients.

The Annex, that was where the fun was. We were able to view all doctor rounds and knew of the progress or the lack of it for all our bedmates. Not all of

the patients at the annex were ambulatory. Some were on crutches and others in wheel chairs. I recall that when VJ day occurred, a party at the club was planned. I was still in a body cast from chest to hip on one side and the other leg fully in the cast. I told the doctor get me a gurney I've got to go to that party. He approved and I went. I finally got out of the cast in October (I think). I had been in that cast or a similar one since I had been a prisoner.

We were especially fond of two ward attendants, Sadie and Roy. They covered for us many times.

There was also a Nurse Housing area, which also had its own club but all were welcome there. Elsewhere on the Fort property was another club we called the Town House Annex and the very Old World War I club. The Junior League of Battle Creek ran the Town House, a small, delightful club, with a homelike atmosphere. Great snacks were available as was beer, but it was also a bottle club. I remember in particular Betty McNichol and a Ms Tichenor, but there were many others from the Junior League. And speaking of clubs, many patients went to the Flagship Room at the Hart Hotel, the Tropics, with proprietor Jack Howard, and the Sky Club with a Mr. Olian. If it seemed like an over abundance of clubs, no. One must put the whole matter in perspective. These men had had no social life for extended periods. It seemed like we couldn't party enough. We'd often swear off but come 5:00 p.m., we'd be off to the showers and another evening out. In town, we frequented the FlagShip Room at the Hart Hotel, the Tropics, Jack Howard owner; and the Sky Club and Mr. Olian.

After we became ambulatory, we spent a lot of time on convalescent leave, usually two months at a time. Since Battle Creek was my hometown, I used the annex as my hotel and often spent several days with my non-ambulatory buddies. When not on leave, the ward doctor would give us a pass. He could only authorize 3 days, but often he would give us a pass signed, but without dates. If we were in a tough spot, we just filled in the dates authorized. That doctor was retired during his stint at the Annex. I suppose we aided in that happening.

In the two years that I was attached to PJ, I saw only one dispute among the patients. It was abruptly put down before violence erupted. The perpetrator had been a very unpopular person. Considering that 10,000 men were living together in very close proximity to each other, that is remarkable. It was the camaraderie at work again.

Other patients still living from my "group" are Joe Borden formerly of

Battle Creek, now living in Florida, Chuck Whitney and Derk VanRaalte, both Michiganders now of Florida, Robert "Pinky" Soerhoff, who married a Battle Creek girl, lives in Piqua, Ohio.

One unusual fact needs to be part of this article. Bob Dole, Daniel Inouye and Phillip Hart, all future United States Senators, shared a common ward room at the hospital. What are the odds for that to occur? Double leg amputee Swainson, later a Governor and Michigan Supreme Court Justice, was also a patient. Many patients, after long, long recuperation went back to civilian life and became solid contributors in many ways.

I've remained in touch with Dole and Inouye after leaving the hospital. On one occasion when Dole and I were conversing, he mentioned that he sold Oldsmobiles on the side for a while. He asked me what the dealer's name was and I recalled it was Cushman. I said I also sold Oldsmobiles on the side for Rice Fowler's agency of Charlotte. Dole said he got \$50 and I said I got \$25, which led to a great laugh. With no pre-arrangement I have run into Danny Inouye three times. Once in a line to get a seat assignment for a flight, once when we both were registering at the Oakland Hilton, and once in a Methodist Church in Lahina on the island of Maui. In this later instance, I learned that Danny was visiting his mother's church. When I walked up behind him and tapped his shoulder, he turned and said, "Jack Curtis what are you doing here?" His parting words to me were, "Where will it be next time Jack, Timbuktu?"

How do I remember Percy Jones? Very fondly. Those days were some of the most enjoyable of my life to that time. There were so many friendships made that endure to this day. There have been three reunions of wards 23 and 24. These were commissioned officer wards, as that is the way service men were housed in those days. The most recent reunion was in 1995 and it brought back more than 40 former patients and spouses.

Many patients remained in the Battle Creek area and are residents here today. The townspeople were great. Did we get the first curb cuts around to accommodate the many wheel chairs? For many non-patients, the sight of legless or armless men was a first. They soon learned to accommodate them. The no stare, no you poor boy acceptance is a lasting memory. I have talked to hundreds of former patients over the years. All have very fond memories of Battle Creek and its residents. Percy Jones, was it a hospital or a hotel?



by Joe Layton

## Percy Jones Army Hospital “The Friendly Hospital”

Before the summer of 1942 the group of buildings at Washington and Champion Streets in Battle Creek Michigan were famous as the Battle Creek Sanitarium. Although the present buildings were the result of many years of expansion and reconstruction, the Sanitarium, operated by Dr. Kellogg, had been one of the city's most important institutions for well over fifty years. The present main building with its luxurious furnishings and state-of the art cures had attracted guests and patients from all over the world. In the first summer after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Army purchased the Battle Creek Sanitarium as a 1,000-bed Army General hospital. However, several months of work were necessary to adapt the main buildings to the Army's needs. By late September 1942, plans for the hospital had been enlarged to include 500 more beds. Work progressed rapidly through the fall and on January 15, 1943, Percy Jones Army Hospital was activated and its first patient (Private Julian Freeman) arrived along with 27 others from the Station Hospital at Fort Custer. A month later, hospital trains were bringing the first actual war casualties. On February 22, Washington's birthday, the formal dedication ceremonies were held, with the widow of the late Colonel Percy L. Jones present to unveil his portrait. The entire cost to the Army to renovate the institution, including the purchase price of \$2,341,000, was less than \$4,000,000.

With the hospital now underway, General Norman T. Kirk became its first commander until he was named Surgeon General of the Army in Washington D.C. Colonel Joseph E. Bastion replaced him. In 1944, under Colonel Bastion's direction, the hospital expanded rapidly to handle the increasing flow of battle casualties as the Allies launched the knockout offensive in Normandy. First, the gift of W.K. Kellogg's million-dollar estate at Gull Lake provided Percy Jones patients with a comfortable convalescent center. The old Fort Custer Reception Center (Now the Fort Custer Training Center) was taken over by the hospital for the reconditioning of battle casualties for further

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Percy Jones Hospital Center.

On February 1, 1950, Defense Secretary Louis Johnson surprised both the citizens of Battle Creek and the hospital staff with the announcement that Percy Jones would be one of eighteen military medical hospitals to be closed in a \$25,000,000 economy measure. In May, Colonel Arthur J. Redland became the Commander and in charge of closing up Percy Jones. The official closing was effective June 30, 1950. Ironically, this meant that Percy Jones had to be deactivated only a matter of days after hostilities broke out in Korea. Through the summer months, a crew of over fifty civilian and servicemen maintained the hospital in a standby status. In September, the first indications were received that the hospital would be re-opened in December. On October 23, Colonel Marten E. Griffin arrived

to assume command, and before the end of the month the necessary renovations were underway. On December 4, 1950, Percy Jones was reactivated and authorized as a 1600-bed hospital. By March 1951, about 1,000 patients were registered; a large number of them were frostbite cases.

In September 1951, the hospital Commander was promoted to Brigadier General. In May 1952, however, General Griffin was transferred to Brooke Army Hospital and Percy Jones came under the command of Percy Jones ninth and final commander, Colonel Norman H. Wiley, who in 1940 had served as chief surgeon at the old post hospital at Fort Custer. On October 5, 1953, Department of the Army General Orders Number 69, dated September 18, 1953 was received. This order placed Percy Jones Army Hospital on an inactive status effective December 31, 1953.

In all, Percy Jones did more for its patients than mend broken bones and amputate body parts. The staff was compassionate and caring, which enabled the recovery of their body, mind and sole. In its 10 years and 9 months of operation, it treated more than 96,000 patients, with 87,000 recovering from combat wounds. From this distinguished group of veterans emerged some future state and national leaders. At one time in their lives, four U.S. Senators (Dole, Inouye, Hart and Potter), a Michigan Governor (Swainson), and four Medal of Honor recipients (Inouye, Thomas, Ingman and Hawks) all called Percy Jones home.

duty.

Finally, the Fort Custer Station Hospital (now the VA Medical Center) was placed under the jurisdiction of Colonel Bastion as the Fort Custer Annex. When all these sub-posts were officially consolidated and activated, it became Percy Jones Hospital Center in April 1945. Also in April 1945, Colonel James Kimbrough assumed command of Percy Jones but for only a month, as Colonel Arthur Gaines was named commander in May.

Percy Jones became the Army's largest medical institution. By September 1945, (a month after V-J Day) the records showed a peak of 11,427 patients.

In 1945 the Percy Jones Hospital Center functioned almost as a city in itself. Thousands of patients enrolled in the "Percy Jones Institute", an accredited high school; it was an education system of over twenty schools in business, professional, agricultural and pre-technical training. KPJ was installed as the hospital's own radio station, with full AP and Armed Forces Radio Service programming. Recreational facilities were operating to capacity. Few weeks elapsed without a visit from some national celebrity, and in a single day the roster showed that over 2,000 visitors had seen their convalescing friends in the hospital. Percy Jones had become an Army Center for amputations, neurosurgery, deep x-ray therapy and plastic artificial eyes. 729 operations were performed in one month alone.

V-J Day did not mark the end of the

"war-work" at Percy Jones. Although the number of patients began to decrease in late 1945, the hospital continued to help GI's recuperate from war injuries for over three years.

In 1946, Percy Jones added an obstetrical unit, for the wives of all military personnel in the area. Facilities for 10 mothers & 20 babies were established on the 8th floor. The first baby born in OB unit was John Jay Whalen, although others were born in operating rooms before him. The last baby born at Percy Jones was Debra Behrndt. As Ms. Behrndt still lives in the area, her exact birth date will not be disclosed. In November, Percy Jones received a new commander, Colonel Robert M. Hardaway, II.

By 1947, Percy Jones Hospital Center was in economic hardship. The operating budget dropped \$3.1 million to \$9,560,056. A major change was needed because after the war ended, there was no longer a need for such a large facility. Several other Army General Hospitals around the country were closing and sending their patients and staff to Percy Jones but it didn't need all 9,000 beds and the facilities that housed them. Drawing down and consolidating was the order for 1947.

The seventh anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1948 found more than 50 men still hospitalized with war wounds, in addition to some thousands injured in peacetime. In March, Colonel Harry D. Offutt was named Percy Jones Commander.

In 1949, Fort Custer was reactivated and was no longer under the control of

by Cathy Kreter, Junior League of Battle Creek

## History of the Officers' Town House

It all started on December 3, 1935 with 22 members as the Service League. On February 3, 1948 it became the Junior League of Battle Creek, as we know it today. One of the many projects the Service League developed was the opening of The Officers' Town House. This project was developed and implemented under the leadership of President, Mrs. Betty (Jack) Ticknor.

The Officers' Town House, a club for commissioned officer patients at Percy Jones General Hospital and the Fort Custer Station Hospital was opened at 44 North Washington Avenue on May 19, 1944. It was the first of its kind in the country and was originated by Mrs. Marian (Donald P.) Ordway. An addition called the "25 Club" was added September 13, 1944. The title resulted from a contest among patients and the designation referred to the fact that there were 25 wards in the hospital, the club becoming No. 25. In March 1945, the Service League agreed to equip a Fort Custer building as another club, later taken over by the army. The Officers' Town House eventually closed May 25, 1947.

The following journal dated June 1944 was written by Mrs. Marian S. Ordway, the committee chairman.

"Having recognized that, due to the war, Battle Creek and its environs presented an opportunity for the Service League to co-operate in an extraordinary field of service seldom found in communities having Service Leagues or Junior League organizations, the league proposed the establishment and maintenance of a suitable club by the Service League of Battle Creek, for the exclusive use of convalescent officers of the armed forces. The facilities of the club to be available to such officers in all branches of the service, both men and women, including commissioned WACS, WAVES, Nurses, etc.

"Although the splendid consideration and facilities provided by our government, American Red Cross, etc., for the comfort and relaxation of enlisted personnel is highly commendable and adequate, and should in no sense be minimized, it is apparent that a definite need has existed for the relaxation, comfort and entertainment of officers who are recovering from wounds or illness sustained in action.

"The Service League's first thought, quite naturally, turned to Percy Jones General Hospital and the needs of officers hospitalized at Fort Custer; and the league should like to pay tribute to those in authority at both institutions, also the Red Cross, Kellogg Foundation, Mrs. McLee, Mr. A.L. Miller and Dr. Morris, and all others who have shown such a grand spirit of co-operation and helpfulness toward this project.

...continued...



“Before the project was launched, it was a privilege for the league to visit and study the operation of eleven Officers Clubs. Considerable information was gained and the Service League learned the reasons why some proved more popular among the men than others; also, the league was able to benefit by their experience and perhaps avoid some of the errors, which other clubs have encountered in actual practice. In selecting the site, numerous factors had to be taken into consideration, but fundamentally necessary was a ground-floor location, in close proximity of Percy Jones.

“Of utmost importance too, it was pointed out by medical officers with whom the Service League counseled, is the need for all members serving as hostesses to be carefully instructed in the proper methods of dealing with officer patients, and recommended deportment on our part to benefit rather than deter, psychologically, the convalescent’s process of recovery.

“The many gifts of the Service League members, and generous offerings received from so many friends, will be fully utilized, with a view to providing an adequately furnished clubroom, designed for the comfort and pleasure of its members. Furnishings will include a radio and Victrola with popular and classical records, new novels and current newspapers and magazines. Cooking privileges will be available to those guests who wish to try their culinary ability in a limited way, and a fine piano will be at the disposal of talented guests who wish to enjoy their own music in pleasant, home-like surroundings. Coffee and tea will be served and there will be a small space for dancing. Here the officers may write letters, read and relax, listen to good music and otherwise enjoy themselves as their reasonable enjoyment, only the rules of a gentlemen which their rank demands.

“The Service League wants every man and woman member of the Officers’ Town House to feel that it is their own club. There will be no attempt to organize their activity. Nominal monthly dues will be charged to the members and they will be permitted to pay for food from the snack bar. The sincere purpose motivating this project is perhaps best expressed in the following, which will appear on every membership card: “The facilities of this club are dedicated to your leisure hours as a commissioned officer patient. May you find within its doors pleasure, recreation and friendliness”.

#### **Journal continues - dated June 1945**

“Since my last report on the Officers’ Town House, made to the Service League in June of last year, the facilities of our original club have been practically doubled through the addition of an

adjoining room. The annexation of the space next door presented several difficult problems and required rather complicated alterations, but the accomplished result has been gratifying to all of The Service League members.

“The added space provided extra space and equipment for the increasing membership, and in every way more than doubled the benefits of the club. It is significant to note that our running expenses were only increased by some \$60.00 monthly. There has been a steady increase in memberships each month. During the Christmas holidays the two rooms were beautifully decorated and on Christmas day hot mulled wine was served, carols sung and many games played.

“In January, a notable wedding reception was given for one of the members. The bridegroom, a young captain just out of the hospital, had lost one leg and carried a cast on the other. You can imagine the tremendous thrill that both he and his little bride and the entire wedding party had on this occasion.

“In handling the steadily increasing membership which has run over one hundred and fifty members each month recently, it was believed advisable to make a slight revision on the club’s hours. We now open two hours later on Sunday and during the week remain open an hour later. The later closing hour was requested by the military.

“Just after Christmas, prior to the establishing of the Convalescent Center at Fort Custer as a part of Percy Jones General Hospital, General Bastian asked the Service League if we would open another Town house for the wounded officers at Custer. The members of the league took justifiable pride in granting this request from the commanding General, which was formal recognition of the efforts we had put forth at the original Town House, and convincing proof that the military recognized the beneficial value of our club for wounded and convalescent officers. The league was told of the contemplated plans for the hospital and Convalescent Center, housing upwards of 10,000 men and destined to be the largest hospital operation in the world, and that we would be provided with a suitable and commodious building for our purpose.

“In due course, all arrangements were completed; decorating, equipment and furnishings provided; and on March eleventh the members of the Service League opened the new club with a dance, which proved very successful.”

#### **Journal continues - dated June 1946**

“Last January 1st the entire management of the Fort Custer Officers’ Town House was taken over by the officers at Fort Custer, and the town members,

Mrs. Lowell Genebach and Mrs. Paul Brake, who had been running it, were relieved of duty there. The Service League still will lend a hand on occasional parties.”

“Upon retiring from the Board of Town House, I would like to express my appreciation to all those members of the Service League who have given so generously of their time, and to our many friends in the community, all of whom have contributed to make our unique project of “Officers’ Town House” such an outstanding success.

“The following journal was written by Mrs. Margaret (James H.W.) Conklin, the committee chairman dated June 1947.

“The Officers’ Town House has completed its third year of service to the officer patients of Percy Jones General Hospital by continuing to provide a club for their relaxation and enjoyment.

“Colonel Robert H. Hardaway, Commanding Officer at the hospital is especially grateful for all that the Service League has done in behalf of these patients and recently expressed to the league his wish that the Town House be continued one more year, because of the great need it is filling.

“Our great increase in memberships has made this a very busy year and I’m deeply indebted to those members of Service League who have worked so hard and so willingly that we could continue to keep the Town House open.

“However long the Officers’ Town House continues it should remain in our memories forever a tribute to Marian Ordway, who gave so much in time and effort in organizing this worthwhile project for the Service League.”

Today, as the Junior League of Battle Creek celebrates its 55th Anniversary and as a past president of the organization, it’s a privilege to research the history of the Officers’ Town House from the leagues archives. It’s very gratifying for the organization to step back and review the rich history, and revisit the strong and amazing women who made what the Junior League is today. Their vision statement reads “Empowered women leading the way to community growth.”

The Junior League of Battle Creek is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of its members and to improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

For more information on the Junior League and its focus on children’s issues please leave a message at (269) 963-5300 or visit [www.jlbconline.org](http://www.jlbconline.org). The Junior League’s seventh annual signature project Kids’ Fest 2003 was held at Kellogg’s Cereal City USA on Saturday, May 3.

by Joni Hatch, Exec. Dir. of the Calhoun Co. Chapter of the American Red Cross

# The Red Cross During World War II

With the coming of the Second World War, American Red Cross volunteers virtually doubled overnight. In the early 1940's, the Red Cross had over 7.5 million volunteers providing support around the world.

Several volunteers worked in the large cafeteria of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, known as the Red Cross War Work Room. Red Cross volunteers taught classes to ladies in knitting and sewing, as well as assembling kits to send to soldiers. Dubbed "Soldier Kits", the bags contained greeting cards, soap box, soap, a deck of playing cards, cigarettes, shoe polishing cloth, small pencil, package of envelopes and paper, chewing gum, tan shoe laces, waterproof match box, razor blades, small book and a sewing case. The cost to assemble such a kit was \$1.00. Currently, the Red Cross is sending Military Care Packages to troops stationed overseas. Although the contents have changed, the need is still there for Americans to support their troops.

When the Sanitarium was converted to the Percy Jones Army Hospital, Red Cross workers moved to the Anson hotel block on the south side of West Michigan. The space was graciously donated by Mrs. A. B. Williams.

On April 18, 1943, the Calhoun County Red Cross issued an appeal for women to help alleviate the shortage of nurses. The Red Cross Volunteer Nurse's Aid Corps was a trained and disciplined service of American women between the ages of 18 and 50 who were physically fit and had a high school diploma or equivalent. The ladies were required to devote a minimum of 150 hours per year on duty in the local hospitals. Upon approval with the Office of Civilian Defense and the Nursing Council on National Defense, an intensive 80-hour training course was required to join the Corps. Upon completion of the course, graduates received their caps and pins, which, together with the blue uniforms and white blouses with the Red Cross OCD insignia on the left sleeve, made them full-fledged members of the Red Cross Volunteer Nurse's Aide Corps.

Local corps volunteers stationed at Percy Jones provided innumerable services. They fed patients unable to feed themselves, made beds, took pulses and temperatures, gave baths, assisted with records, prepared surgical dressings, dictated letters for the injured soldiers unable to write, provided recreation and companionship to the soldiers, distributed reading materials and any other task they were asked to do.

During the week of June 5, 1944, Red Cross volunteers collected a record 123,284 pints of blood from the American people. Several of those units were transfused to soldiers at Percy Jones. This volunteer attitude is still portrayed in Red Cross volunteers today. Every 56 days, a team of dedicated volunteers holds a blood drive for the Federal employees to share the "Gift of Life" with others. Through their generous



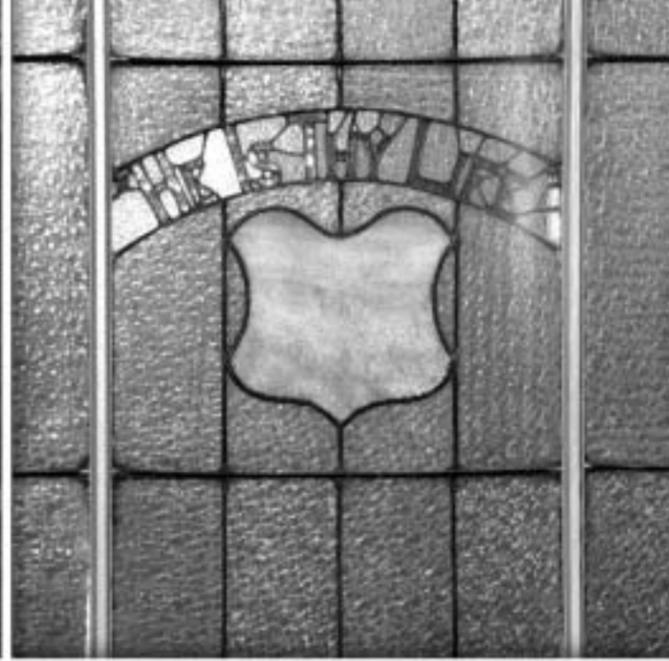
giving, the Battle Creek Federal Center provides over 1,000 pints of blood annually.

When writing about the Red Cross services during World War II, I must mention the famous "Doughnut Issue". Doughnuts became inextricably associated with the American Red Cross in World War II. Between 1939 and 1946, the Red Cross purchased enough flour to make 1.6 billion doughnuts! "The Red Cross sold me coffee and doughnuts" has been an often-repeated complaint following the war. This public relations nightmare stemmed from seemingly innocent government orders at the beginning of the war. Although food and drink in domestic canteens were free, the overseas theater was a different matter. Secretary of War Henry Stimson wrote to the Red Cross chairman on May 20, 1942 saying: "The War Department appreciates the motive of the Red Cross with respect to this matter and its established policy of free service, but under the circumstances it is believed impractical, unnecessary, and undesirable that food and lodging be provided for."

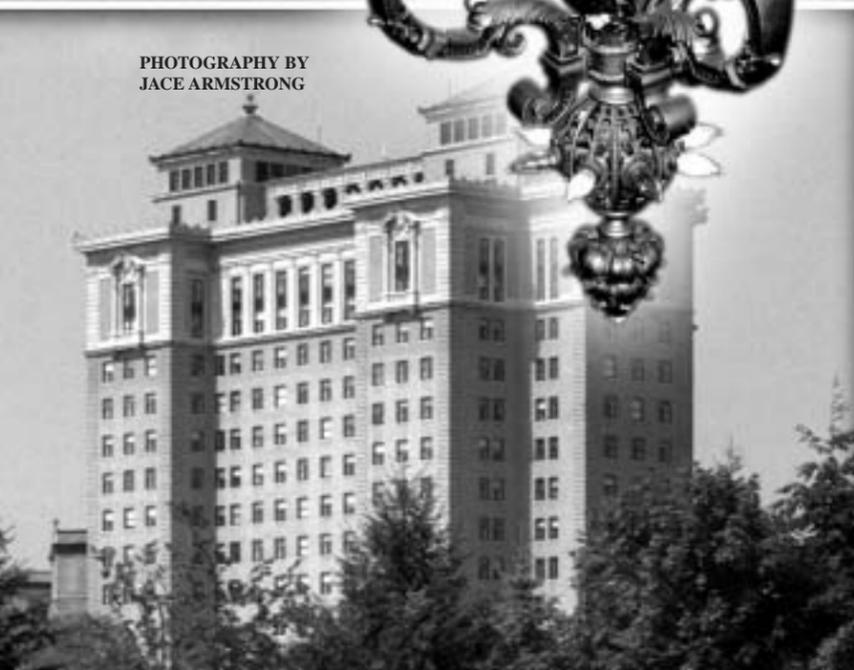
Although we are past the days of making homemade doughnuts, anyone is welcome to free coffee and cookies through the Red Cross Blood Donor Program. All you need to do is stop at a blood drive in your area and visit the canteen area.

Through the years, the Red Cross has remained committed to helping alleviate the suffering of human individuals. Our Mission statement reads "The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its congressional charter and the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies". Some things may have changed, but our mission remains the same. *We'll Be There* because *Help Can't Wait*.

A CENTURY OF SERVICE 1903-2003



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACE ARMSTRONG



1954 to PRESENT

by Timothy Hoyle & Judith Lafler

# The Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center...

A Part of our Community...  
Today and Tomorrow

## Innovation will continue at recently renamed Federal Center

While no one can predict the future, innovation and teamwork will continue to shape operations at the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center (renamed in early April by the General Services Administration after Sen.



Carl Levin

Carl Levin (D-Mich.) had sponsored the name change. Whether you examine the Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS), the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) or the Defense Logistics Agency Systems Integration Office (DSIO-J), you will discover a continuing commitment to exploiting the latest technologies and best business practices.

These technologies help elements of the

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) here provide the tools that America's armed forces and many other areas of the government use to manage the things they use today and look ahead at what they will need tomorrow to accomplish their missions. These tools also help them maintain equipment and identify what it takes to handle, ship or store their items safely.

With so much information to manage, it is easy to see why it is important for Federal Center employees to make the best use of today's information technology and anticipate the tools they will need in the future. This foresight shows in DLIS' collaboration with several groups to develop universal standards for naming items and describing their characteristics.

...continued...



Hart



Dole



Inouye



### **Managing and sharing large amounts of information**

Anything that is used by the government and even the smaller parts and pieces of larger items can be thought of as an item. Much of the work at the Federal center has always been related to identifying those items and producing the best tools for people to locate them, understand what they are and the best ways to acquire each item. These tools are used by both the people who need items and those who maintain the inventories they are ordered from – whether it is a new item coming from a supplier or supply depot, or a used item at a DRMS field office. It is the information tools provided here that help ensure DLA customers end up with the right item, at the right time, in the right place and at the right price.

The pursuit of such tools makes Federal Center employees active in the continuing development of information technologies that make it easier to manage vast amounts of information and share it with others. That role has made DLIS the leader in not only naming items, but also cross-referencing those names with information in other computer systems and databases. Their expertise is actively sought and shared with others who seek a single commercial naming standard for international use.

The process of naming items, often referred to as cataloging, has always been one of the main activities at the Federal Center. The public law enacted in 1952 to standardize item naming across the military services led to the creation of DLIS and later to consolidation and centralization of all Defense Department cataloging. That evolution continues today through a program intended to make cataloging as modern and efficient as possible using commercial-off-the-shelf software. Such efficiency is especially important when one considers there are more than 6.5 million active items already in use by the government.

Information experts within DLIS are searching for ways for users to consolidate their unique computer systems into a single system that serves everyone. The development and testing phase of this new system began during March 2001, and the five-phase deployment starts in May. This new method for sharing data should be fully operational by fall 2004. It will improve overall cataloging operations by reducing the number of connections needed between computers, reducing the chances for human error, managing workloads, tracking special projects, reducing the amount of research and training time needed, and providing its users with more accurate performance statistics.

### **Standardizing logistics information for everyone's benefit**

Because the items used by government are known by many other names across the private sector, it is helpful to link those other identities with those in the Federal Catalog System. A new tool to create such links was recently developed through collaborations between DLIS employees, a private software developer and other elements of DLA to create such links.

Initially, this tool will be used to match commercial names for items with their government names. This process will allow those managing exports to find the commercial information using computers instead of researching the names manually. The goal is to make logistics information more useful, eventually mapping links between government item names and all of their other commercial counterparts.

Besides matching names between the public and private sectors, there must also be matches between the names used by the United States and its many friends and allies. Pacific area logisticians as well as NATO members and sponsored nations have long relied upon U.S. methods for assigning names as a foundation for their systems. Having such a common numerical language for referring to items facilitates the sharing of equipment between countries that do not share the same spoken language. As new friends and allies come along or equipment changes, information specialists here work with newcomers and established users alike to ensure everyone's data remains interchangeable.

New computer languages for composing information on the World Wide Web also show great promise for standardizing how information is shared. These new languages are much like the editions of word processing software that build upon each other to create software that makes it easier to prepare documents and share them – even if the recipient uses a different type of software than the one used to create the document.

Working with other information technology leaders, DLIS experts share what they have learned about providing information online to many different types of customers to include many foreign militaries. Such collaborations should help achieve the same universal standards for preparing information as we have sought for naming items.

The fast pace of modern military operations has made the Internet and other online media essential for keeping pace with the logistics needs of U.S. and allied forces. Universal languages provide an ideal solution for handling the rapidly expanding quantity and complexity of information that would be

more valuable online. Assisting in such developments is one of many ways that DLIS continues to seek solutions that provide better and faster logistics information services.

### **Streamlining logistics processes: reusing, selling and recycling items**

Among the services offered are ways customers can meet their supply needs by searching the global inventory of reusable items turned in by other units to DRMS field offices around the world. The same item names originally created by DLIS are used to list the millions of items available on a daily basis that can extend a unit's operating funds and often expedite delivery by getting used items. The electronic property accounting measures developed by DRMS make it easier for units to submit information about property that they no longer need, making data about the item available much sooner online.

Such methods not only help technology to move information instead of property but help DRMS develop customer-based service models. Besides making it easier to turn in and reuse property, DRMS is continually refining its operations to make it easier and less costly to dispose of items that cannot be used by others. A commercial venture already allows much of the reusable property that can be sold to the public to be sold through a commercial contract that lets the government make money from the sale of items without bearing the expense of managing costly local sales operations.

An industry meeting was conducted in December to discuss the creation of a similar program for the sale of scrap materials. Thirty-six firms were represented at the meeting and given the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments. If successful, the program could provide the same cost reduction benefits to scrap sales that the other contract has provided for reusable property.

DRMS will continue to enhance its environmental compliance efforts through greening programs to encourage the recycling and return for remanufacturing of items. These efforts will build on earlier success achieved through precious metals recovery and the demanufacturing of electronic components. DRMS field offices in the U.S. and around the world will increase their use of Internet resources and other networking to develop increased opportunities to recycle. Recycling efforts should also be made easier as more government buyers take advantage of environmentally friendly products identified by DLIS in the Federal Catalog System.

### **Customizing efficient computer systems for special needs**

Because of the heavy reliance DLIS and DRMS place on new technologies, DSIO-J will continue to evolve from its past role as a software developer into a resource for combining commercial and standard government computer systems. There is already a movement within DLA into the world of resource planning. This type of planning attempts to combine information from all departments and functions across an organization onto a single computer system that can serve all those different departments' particular needs. Such techniques can help DLA merge the many areas of its business through commercial software that takes advantage of the private sector's best practices.

Local systems analysts at DSIO-J also use other new tools to shape computer systems as needed, just as software users customize features on programs to make them better suit their individual needs. Such efforts help DSIO-J tailor computer systems for DLA's special needs and to make them run more efficiently. Analysts here are evolving their role to become more like business engineers as they work more closely with DLA customers to identify needs and develop strategies for meeting them.

### **"Telework" addresses needs and preferences of workforce**

With an average employee age of 47 years, the Federal Center is developing a workforce of the future. Telework, which allows employees to work from their homes, is one of the tools that can be helpful in retaining experienced workers, while also attracting a diverse pool of younger employees with the technical skills needed for the future.

Telecommuting allows employees more flexibility in their schedule, while helping managers complete projects through the virtual workspace. More than 650 workers have been trained to Telework, and 182 employees are already taking advantage of the opportunity. Job fairs and seminars have also been held locally to help area residents learn about the skills used here and consider making the Federal Center part of their future.

### **Federal Center workforce maintains its capability to serve**

The Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center workforce constantly explores innovative ways to accomplish its mission of supporting the warfighter's logistics needs in *any* environment. As the Federal Center's operating needs evolve, the General Services Administration will help adapt facilities to provide the most efficient workspaces possible. More than \$25 million was spent in the mid-1990s to modernize the building while still preserving areas that are important to local history and culture.

by Randy Case, Architecture + Design

## Battle Creek's Landmark

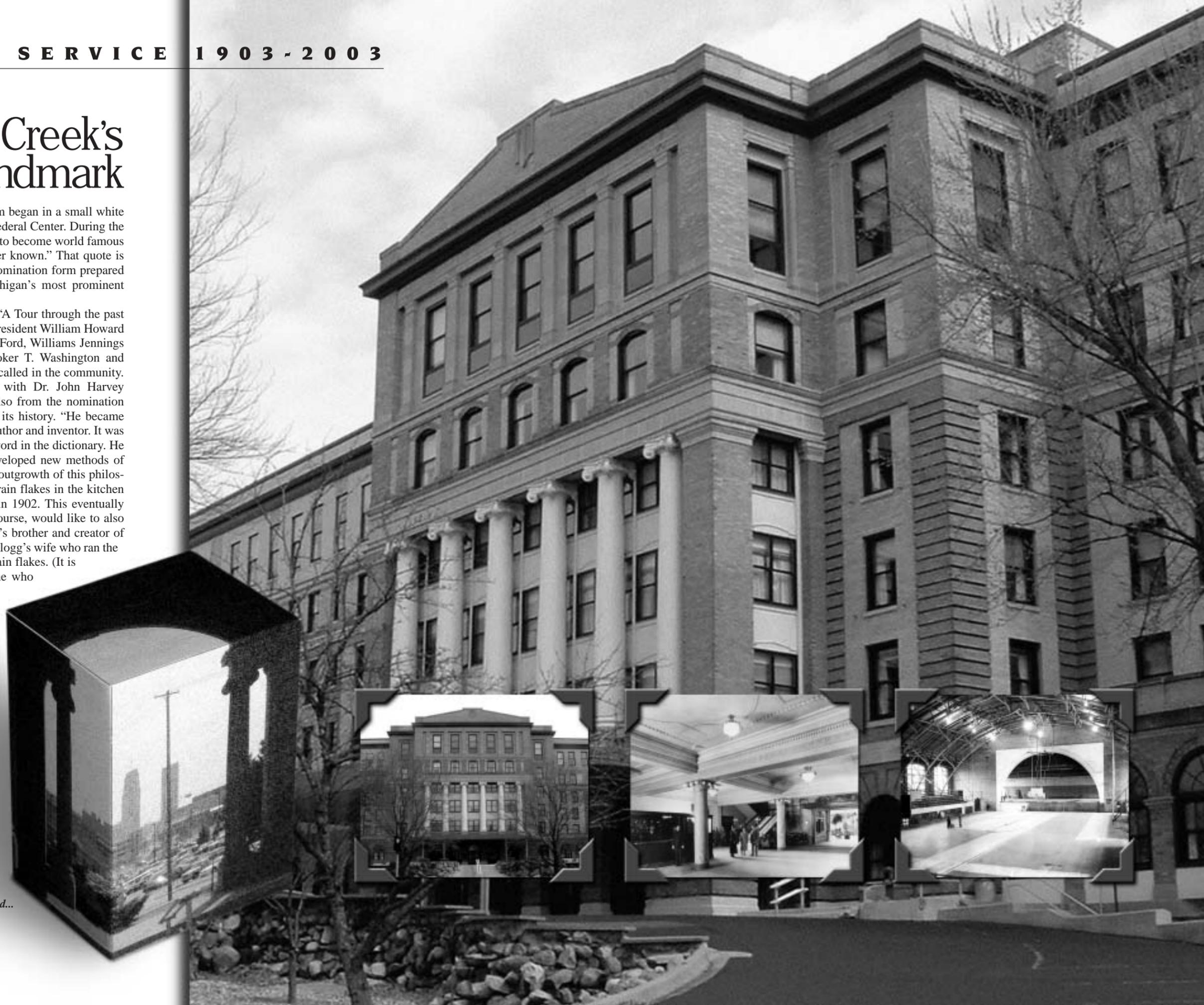
"The forerunner of the Battle Creek Sanitarium began in a small white farmhouse in 1866 near the site of the present Federal Center. During the next quarter century the institution was destined to become world famous as the largest and most beautiful sanitarium ever known." That quote is from the National Register of Historic Places nomination form prepared in 1974 by Richard Frank FAIA, one of Michigan's most prominent preservation architects.

According to John Buchmeier's Publication "A Tour through the past & present of the Battle Creek Federal Center" President William Howard Taft was the 100,000th guest registered. Henry Ford, Williams Jennings Bryan, John D. Rockefeller, J.C. Penney, Booker T. Washington and Harry Firestone also took "The Cure" as it was called in the community.

The Battle Creek Sanitarium was created with Dr. John Harvey Kellogg as its director. The following quote, also from the nomination form illustrates the importance of this site and its history. "He became internationally known as an internist, surgeon, author and inventor. It was he who named it the "Sanitarium", putting the word in the dictionary. He also put emphasis on "biologic living" and developed new methods of treatment for his patients and new foods. As an outgrowth of this philosophy, in 1894 Dr. Kellogg developed the first grain flakes in the kitchen of the Old Sanitarium Building which burned in 1902. This eventually spawned the cereal industry in the city." I, of course, would like to also inject the names of W. K. Kellogg, Dr. Kellogg's brother and creator of the Kellogg Co.; and Ella Eaton Kellogg, Dr. Kellogg's wife who ran the "Experimental Kitchen", as co-developers of grain flakes. (It is thought by many that Ella was actually the one who discovered the secret of the flaking process.) Forgive my little digression but I feel when discussing or designing architecture it is important to gather information about the context or background that guides the "Story" that a building is designed to tell.

The main building of the Battle Creek Federal Center was built in 1903 as the result of a fire, which consumed the original Sanitarium. The reconstructed building was created during a time following great expansion and popularity of Dr. Kellogg's methods. The original "Old Main" structure had been tripled in size with two major additions and the new building, like Dr. Kellogg's ideas, was more than likely designed to demonstrate the most progressive and forward thinking of its time. It was specifically designed in the Italian Renaissance Revival Style by Frank H. Andrews of Dayton, Ohio and constructed on the same site. This style was a variety of the Academic Classic style

...continued...



and as a result is referred to by some generally as Neo Classic Revival. This style was state-of-the-art at the turn of the century when owners and architects were emulating classic European designs. It was originally constructed of five stories with a sixth added shortly before 1920. The main structure is approximately 524' long and housed three wings projecting to the rear centered on a glass domed semicircular "Palm Garden". These wings created a central Gym with a men's bath and exercise Annex to one side and women's Annex to the other. They created spokes radiating from the Palm Garden as a hub.

Each Annex wing included temperature-controlled indoor swimming pools. The Main Building when constructed enclosed approximately seven acres of space and was claimed to be "fireproof, frostproof and windproof throughout". (An interesting way to define a building...apparently besides fire; wind and frost were considered embellishments to the typical way of building at the time).

Even though the focus of events at the Federal Center is on the Main building constructed in 1903 to commemorate its hundred years of service, I have to pause and comment on what I perceive to be the crowning touch to the Federal Center site, the 1928 "Towers Addition".

The elevation of the site, situated prominently on high ground overlooking the city obviously was chosen by Dr. Kellogg to have an impact. The Towers Addition definitely consummates the idea of Impact. With its copper capped hipped roofs and parapet details gleaming in the sun there is no questioning its presence. It can be seen from almost any location downtown. The structure is rotated on its site contrary to the straight formal parallel form of the main building almost as if it wants to turn and greet people as they come into the city. The huge columned entrance arcade facing Champion Street offered one of the most compelling views of Downtown Battle Creek silhouetting the twin skyscrapers on either side of Michigan Avenue in the distance.

With its former rooftop "Sun Garden" famous for the Grand March after dinner each evening, the Main Lobby Colonnade, and at the time largest free area Dining room in the world the Towers Addition was and still is a major Architectural work in Battle Creek.

There, I have cleared my system of these personal comments and can continue with the description of the primary focus: The original 1903 Main building which is celebrating its life of 100 years.

Even before the Towers Addition was conceived the main structure was monumental not only due to its elevated

location but also due to its sheer size. The front, facing Washington Street to the west displays a projecting central entrance portico flanked by two recessed wings that break forward at the ends creating an extended square in its floor plan. These squares originally consisted of five bays of windows and terminated at the top with stylized parapet pediments housing eyebrow openings. (These openings allow a bystander to see clouds pass by beyond through the masonry.) The Towers Addition has obscured the pediment to the south partially. The original façade was broken into three horizontal bands with the sixth story addition, before 1920, creating a fourth.

The primary materials are brick with decorative elements such as columns, and horizontal belt courses made of limestone.

The lower level of the entrance portico is created of brick arches and this band is extended down both wings with brick arched colonnades that were originally open air loggias but have since been enclosed to create more office space. The second band includes the second, third, and fourth levels. The central bay is distinguished with six massive Ionic columns that spring from the arches below backed up by pairs of windows. This band is formed by pairs of windows separated by lighter brick framed by rusticated dark brick piers on both wings. The third band houses the fifth floor, and the entrance portico sports five rectangular windows that were originally arched. They are separated by light colored brick with projected pilasters of smooth dark brick. The wings mimic the lower band except that smooth dark brick is used instead of the rusticated texture. The upper band created by the sixth floor addition incorporates taller windows and at the central bay they are separated by stone panels bordered by ornamental stone pilasters topped with stylized column caps. The parapet above rises to form a pediment with a stylized central stone medallion and horizontal projecting cornice. The wings are similar but without any ornament, except the projecting cornice.

The interior central Grand Lobby still incorporates most of its architectural details in the ornamental beam details and marble stairways. There are still painted ceilings above some of the dropped ceilings long since modernized to allow contemporary uses of mechanical and electrical systems, and a canvas containing a painting completed in 1928 is rolled for safe keeping in case a future budget might allow for its restoration and reinstallation. I appreciate that kind of thinking and hope to see the Federal Center, its Monumental Historic structures and all the people they shelter, taking part in our community for a long time to come.

## Battle Creek Equipment Company

Battle Creek was widely known as "the Health City" when the Battle Creek Sanitarium was thriving. Part of that reputation came from the health appliances, which were made here.

Prior to the 1880's, John Harvey Kellogg, M.D., was importing physical therapy devices for use at the Sanitarium. Because of the difficulties and expense to import, Dr. Kellogg began to make products of his design in the Sanitarium shops. Often, visitors to the Sanitarium wanted to buy a Kellogg invention, so Dr. Kellogg started the Sanitarium Equipment Company. It operated at the San for a time.

Some of the innovations from Dr. Kellogg's company are the first sun-lamps and the first electric light bath cabinets. (Dr. Kellogg gave Thomas Edison the first order for a gross of electric light bulbs.) Other products made by the Sanitarium Equipment Company were a mechanical horse to simulate riding (one was sold to President Coolidge), Dr. Kellogg's posture chair, and an Automatic Exerciser which put a controlled sinusoidal current through a patient's muscles for effortless exercise. Dr. Kellogg discovered sinusoidal current and was the first to commercialize it.

By the 1920's, the Company had retail showrooms in the major cities. Thousands of vibratory belt massagers were shipped. But with the Great Depression and over-expansion of the business, the firm was bankrupt in



1931. Two Sanitarium Equipment employees, Harry M. Babcock and Wendell E. Doty, found themselves unemployed. They pooled \$120 to form the Battle Creek Equipment Company to acquire the assets of the Sanitarium Equipment Company. They began a mail-order business, which operated from Mr. Babcock's home at 1739 West Michigan. When they received an order, they would buy the needed product from the Bankruptcy Court, which controlled Sanitarium Equipment's inventory. The partners celebrated their first \$2 order for a vaporizer. When a member of the DuPont family sent a \$2,000 check for a \$2 vaporizer (and the partners were not drawing any salary) the over-payment was returned.

Mr. Babcock and Mr. Doty had conversations and correspondence with Dr. Kellogg about their concept of starting a business. Dr. Kellogg asked, "What will you call your company?" When told it would be the Battle Creek

Equipment Company, Dr. Kellogg responded, "That's a fine name." After registering their company name with the Calhoun County Clerk, the partners learned Dr. Kellogg had tried to register the same name, but was rejected because his application was received after theirs.

Dr. Kellogg proposed to be the medical advisor to the new company for 10% of the gross receipts, but Mr. Babcock and Mr. Doty did not think they could afford the fee.

When the inventory of the old company had been sold, Norris Goodrich (also a jobless Sanitarium Equipment employee) opened a small factory on Willow Street to make products for Battle Creek Equipment Company.

Soon the new company moved into a display room at 48 North Washington, in the Atlas Building, which was owned by W.K. Kellogg. Before renting space to the young entrepreneurs, Mr. Kellogg demanded they swear they were in no way connected with his brother, Dr. Kellogg. When W.K. Kellogg wanted a massage table for his own use, he sent his carpenters to the display room to take measurements of a table the company was showing - to duplicate it, rather than buy the table from his tenants.

The Battle Creek Equipment Company continued to innovate, introducing the first treadmill for human exercise in 1932. The first Thermophore Automatic Moist Heat



Pack for temporary pain relief, which had been invented by a nurse at the Sanitarium, was brought to market after World War II. Production had been interrupted so the company could produce fire extinguishers for the war effort. The Thermophore Pack is the company's flagship product today.

Selling exercise equipment in a time when physicians were prescribing bed rest instead of physical activity was difficult. Indeed, approximately thirty years ago, the company was ordered by the United States Food and Drug Administration to make no claim that exercise is beneficial. Dr. Kellogg and the Battle Creek Equipment Company were ahead of their time.

Some of the company's antique products are displayed at the Adventist Historic Village and Kellogg's Cereal City USA. Electric light baths are offered by Battle Creek Lifestyle Health Center.



## The Cereal Saga

"Cereal, cereal, cereal...oh they are important sure, but cereal is just the by-product of the biologic living program that I have championed for over 75 years," boasts Dr. John Harvey Kellogg. Dr. Kellogg was the medical director of the Battle Creek Sanitarium from 1877 until his death in 1943. He begins the show, "The Best to You Review", at Kellogg's Cereal City USA's Bijou Theater by telling how he invented flaked cereal. Suddenly, his brother, Will Keith Kellogg, appears on the screen to set his brother straight. W.K. also worked at the Battle Creek Sanitarium for 25 years before starting his own cereal company, which we now know today as the Kellogg Company. In response to his brother's conceited statement W.K. states, "Typical mis-interpretation of the facts, brother. We worked together in developing the first Granose flakes."

Then, Ella Eaton Kellogg, John Harvey Kellogg's wife, comes to the screen to really set the fellows straight.



She opens by saying that they all had worked in the Sanitarium kitchen thousands of times without success when one day, Providence took them in hand and they were pulled away just after they had boiled the wheat, but before they could put it through the rollers. Upon returning to the kitchen the following day, they discovered the flakes had been left out overnight. After much debate to not waste this food, they put the trays of wheat through the rollers. This in turn produced the perfect flake. The lapsed time had equalized the moisture in the wheat. This process called tempering is still used today by cereal makers.

What if in the search for more palatable, more nutritious foods to replace meat, the Kellogg's hadn't discovered how to make flaked cereal? What would Battle Creek be like today?

It's gr-r-reat to live in Battle Creek, the Cereal City, the best known city of its size in the world. It's even gr-r-reat to be a part of Kellogg's Cereal City USA where one can get the "real scoop on the whole cereal saga."

After getting an overview of Battle Creek's cereal history at the Bijou Theater, one can go to the second floor production line or the historical timeline. The production line re-creates, in a special way, how corn flakes are made. At the end of the line you can get a warm sample, just like it came right out of the oven.

Stanley McDuff, although nearly everyone calls him Duff, hosts the Timeline Theater, where viewers can learn more about Battle Creek history. After the show in the theater, continue through the timeline and see everything from Sanitarium equipment, the invention of cereal and some of the original cereal box premiums.

"A Bowl Full of Dreams" shown in the Cereal City Cinema shares more history via Captain Kangaroo and some of the old Kellogg's Cereal commercial footage.

Just a few steps from there challenge yourself at DigEm's Diner. Sit down at the counter and touch the TV screen to order up a menu of fun facts from Battle Creek history to nutrition. Speaking of nutrition, it was this search for a new vegetarian food option that would taste good, as well as provide adequate nutrition, that got this "whole cereal saga" started at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, and the story continues today at Kellogg's Cereal City USA.

## Repairs to Italian fountain require expertise of retirees – Unusual history of fountain recalled

For the past 15 years, the fountain in the cafeteria of the Federal Center in Battle Creek, Mich., has required little maintenance. Recently, however, several employees noticed that the fountain was beginning to tilt. The Government Services Administration (GSA), which is responsible for the upkeep of the fountain, looked into the problem and discovered that water from the fountain was leaking behind the tiles causing the base to deteriorate.

Realizing that repairing the 73-year-old fountain would require special skills, GSA called upon retirees Don France and Frank Bechtol for their expertise. France headed up the installation of the 17-foot Italian fountain when it was returned to the Federal Center in 1985.

"Repairing the fountain is not like building a garage. There isn't a set procedure to follow," France said. "You have to discover what is wrong and come up with a new solution at every step of the repair."

The repair process includes wrapping a membrane around the base of the pedestal and then inserting it into an aluminum cube to prevent further damage. Repairs to the fountain will take several weeks.

The fountain was returned to the Federal Center after being sold during the building's era as the Percy Jones Hospital in World War II.

Brought over in 1928 from Naples, Italy, the fountain was one of the main attractions of the Venetian Dining Room when the building was the Battle Creek Sanitarium. The "San" was a nationally known health resort run by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg. He is credited with coining the word "sanitarium," meaning a place where people learn to stay well. Several famous people stayed at the retreat including Amelia Erhart who took Kellogg for a ride in her plane for an aerial view of the San.

Former San employee Olive Rochelle purchased the fountain for her backyard, but later sold it to a man from Nashville. He took the cherub statue with him, but never returned for the rest of the fountain. Rochelle sold the remaining part of the fountain in 1959 to Francis Haight of Middleville. Fortunately, members of the Battle Creek Historical Society discovered the fountain at an estate sale in 1985 and bought it back. A group of Federal Center employees joined the Society members in the lengthy cleaning process of the fountain.



A look back in time. The fountain, adorned with holiday decorations, is the focal point of Christmas Dinner at the "San" in the 1930's. INSET: Don France (right) and Frank Bechtol make repairs to the Italian fountain. France was instrumental in installing the fountain 15 years ago and his familiarity with the project made him a likely candidate for its repair. Bechtol also worked with France on the original installation of the fountain.

## Dole, Swainson Emerged from Percy Jones Army Hospital to Take Leadership Roles

With word that the Battle Creek Federal Center will be celebrating its 100th birthday on May 31, two wounded veterans came to mind who had been patients there in the Percy Jones Army Hospital days during and after World War II.

First of these was Senator Bob Dole whom I first encountered at the 1976 National Republican Convention in Kansas City, where he was President Jerry Ford's V.P. candidate. The second was former Governor John B. Swainson who became a close friend during the 1980's when we both served as members of the Michigan Historical Commission.

Senator Dole spent several days in 1980 here in Michigan supporting Jim Gilmore's campaign for U.S. House of Representatives for our district. He covered the district very well making speeches and shaking hands all day long.

There was the rub – shaking hands. If you've met Senator Dole you know he shakes hands with his left hand. His right arm was badly damaged by enemy fire during the Italian campaign and he was sent to Percy Jones for extensive surgery and treatment that lasted several months.

Thus it follows the most impressive thing for me that day was not his speeches. Instead it was the time Senator Dole spent with a youngster who had had his hand and arm mangled by a farm equipment accident.

The boy was still heavily bandaged. Dole took him aside for about a half an hour. It was obvious that politics was not involved as he counseled the young man and offered reassurance 23 years ago. We mention this because it offered



Governor John B. Swainson

a view of the human side of a devastating war injury and relating it to a youngster who probably wasn't much younger than Dole was when he had been wounded.

With Governor John Swainson war wounds were even more dramatic as he was riding in a Jeep that ran over a German mine. Swainson's legs were torn to shreds by the explosion and both were eventually amputated. Thus his stay at Percy Jones was even longer.

The therapy was undertaken by a young man with considerable drive and ambition. Swainson worked hard and was soon able to get around with an effort that helped conceal his handicap.

John then started at Olivet College and spent several years there before transferring to University of North Carolina. This Tar Heel graduated and then went on to law school at UNC.

By 1960 he was the Democratic candidate for governor of Michigan and we recall lots of photographs of him on the observation platform of the John F.

Kennedy train that was whistle-stopping through the Wolverine State.

With the help of "Soapy" Williams both Kennedy and Swainson were able to carry Michigan. However the dramatic efforts of George Romney during the 1962 re-election campaign were able to limit John to two years in office.

Swainson's handicap was pretty much accepted at the time. It was many years later when he told *Detroit Free Press's* Hugh McDiarmid that he was the country's shortest governor. As McDiarmid wrote, "He then proved his point by moving around his hotel room without the assistance of his artificial legs!"

Over the years he was kind enough to visit us in Marshall speaking to the Marshall Rotary Club on one occasion and also traveling to The Starr Commonwealth Schools when I was on the board of that institution.

Governor John and his wife Alice made their home in a handsome farmhouse outside of Manchester. We had the pleasure of visiting them there on several social occasions.

John had named the farm "The Hustings" and also enjoyed using the name as a means of escape. During his time in office he had programmed his secretary to tell callers he was out in the hustings.

Mr. Webster tells us that in ancient times hustings was "a court held in various English boroughs or cities. It still survives in London." Now it's any place political campaign speeches are made. Obviously it's the perfect dodge for a tired office holder and John used it to full advantage.

On the historical commission John was a merry leader of a group of dedicated historians that included Jerry D. Roe (former executive director of the state Republican party); Betty Adams of Drayton Plains who served on the commission for almost 50 years; Willard C. Wichers, the man who brought the last windmill to leave The Netherlands to Holland; Don Thurber of Grosse Pointe, a leading Democratic party fund-raiser; and the writer of this story.

It was a group devoted to Michigan state and local history that also enjoyed the company with whom we served.

John died suddenly a few years ago. His kindness and sense of humor are still remembered by those who served with him.

## Looking Back, the Way It Was!



no win situation – a civil war between the North and South. It took a lot of our local boys away from home, some never to return.

It was 1951, the economy was thriving, jobs were plentiful in Battle Creek. Ft Custer was a basic training center with a population of 50,000 troops and Percy Jones (now called the Hart, Dole, Inouye Federal Center) was the nation's largest U.S. Army Hospital, specializing in rehabilitation for amputees who needed prostheses.

One of the most well known quadriplegics of World War II was rehabbed at Percy Jones. His name was Harold Russell, an actual disabled soldier who starred in the movie "The Best Years of our Lives," also starring Frederick March, Myrna Loy, Dana Andrews, Theresa Wright and Virginia Mayo. Mr. Russell, who became a role model for other disabled veterans, played Homer Parrish, a quadriplegic amputee returning home after the war, trying to adjust to civilian life and the way he was accepted by the community.

Athletics played a big role in entertaining the troops at the Rehab Center. They had a great sports program, Football, Basketball and Baseball teams represented Battle Creek around the country and in local recreation leagues. Bowling and Golf were also included. These athletic programs were run by Sergeant Major Bill Reyenga, a tough as nails World War II veteran, who had a lot of pull with upper echelon "Brass". I would compare him with one of today's college recruiters. He took a liking to me when I competed against his basketball and baseball teams in our city leagues. The sergeant issued me a permanent pass to use the military facilities in my leisure time, what a great gesture! That gave me an opportunity to get acquainted with some of the athletes and visit with their patients – a great experience for an 18-year-old. I'm still in touch with two of the athletes I met at Percy Jones, both of whom are now liv-



PHOTO: Al Ware, Steve Kraly, and Bill Baummeyer, players for the 1951-52 Ft. Custer Reception Center Baseball Team, a standout military team of the early 50s. The man in uniform in the stands behind Al Ware's shoulder, is John Sjogren, a Grand Rapids native. During World War II he received the Congressional Medal of Honor for an encounter on Negres Island in the Phillipines, in which he killed over 30 enemy soldiers. The islanders later named a mountain on the island in his honor, John's Mountain.

ing in the Grand Rapids area.

James Eaddy, was an all-around athlete from Grand Rapids' Ottawa Hills High School who was an All City football selection and All State in basketball in 1947. He attended Central State College in Ohio on a Basketball scholarship and captained the team his senior year. He held and set many individual records there. After graduation, he was inducted into the Military and was assigned to the 171st Military Police Battalion at Camp McCoy, WI, where he was put on temporary duty with the Post Basketball Team.

The Percy Jones team traveled to Camp McCoy for a weekend series. McCoy won the series as Eaddy led his team, averaging 30 plus points in both games. After the final game, Sergeant Reyenga arranged a transfer and Eaddy spent the remainder of his service time at P.J.A.H., playing basketball and running track. When asked what he remembered most about Percy Jones, Jim replied, "I remember the friendships I made with people I would never see again, who would be just vague memories of things past." He remembers helping some of the patients get to special events and visiting rooms to encourage them not to give up and to try to participate. After his discharge from the service, Jim Eaddy went on to teach and coach in the Grand Rapids area, where he led his 1997 Ottawa Hills boys basketball team to the State Class A Championship.

Al Ware, a great friend from baseball is also P.J.A.H Alum. He was inducted at Ft. Custer and trained with the 163rd Military Police Battalion. Al was a 1947 graduate of Pershing High School in Detroit where he was a two-sport star, football and baseball. After graduation, he signed a bonus contract with the Chicago White Sox. He spent three

years in the minor leagues before being inducted into the service. His military time was spent between Percy Jones for football and Ft. Custer for baseball, where he played third base for a team with two major league pitchers, Ray Herbert of the Tigers and Steve Kraly of the Yankees. This was a very dominant baseball team, made up primarily of professional players.

During football season at Percy Jones, he played with several college players, one being former Battle Creek Mayor, Don Sherrod. Ware's duties at the hospital were in the Rehab center working with patients. He was always encouraging them, trying to boost their morale, and helped them correspond with their loved ones.

After being discharged in 1953, Al continued his baseball career, making it to AAA at Charleston. He left Pro-ball after the 1959 season, after an injury retired him. He went to work for AAA of Michigan in Detroit and transferred to Grand Rapids where he and his wife, Helene, raised their four children. He continued playing ball for the Grand Rapids Sullivan's team until 1970 and was very active in community affairs and recreation until his retirement five years ago.

In a phone conversation recently, I asked Ware what he remembered most about PJA.H. He said, "It taught me many values about life and friendships you can share in a two year period and how quickly it all passes, like it never happened."

Looking back, I wonder how many of the amputees ever resumed normal lives in their communities? Like Audie Murphy said, war is like going "To Hell and Back!"

In remembrance of those that gave and sacrificed so much during the war years, I'm Carl Angelo Touching the Bases...

# A Century of Service

BY ANDREW LAYTON

## Medal of Honor Heroes Received Treatment at Percy Jones



Danny Inouye



Lloyd C. Hawks



Charles L. Thomas



Einar Ingman

For ten years and eleven months, Battle Creek, Michigan was a town with no shortage of heroes. During this short period of time spanning from 1943-1953, 87,000 veterans received life-saving care within the walls of the Percy Jones Army Hospital. Every one of these men sustained serious injuries while serving in combat overseas, and each sacrificed a great deal for the cause of freedom. Though all deserved to be referred to as heroes, there were a few gentlemen whose wartime valor was so extraordinary that their country rewarded them with the nation's highest medal for bravery, the Medal of Honor.

One of these men to display such valor, and go on to recover from wounds at Percy Jones, was a man by the name of Lloyd C. Hawks. As a medic serving in the 3rd Infantry Division in Europe, Private First Class Hawks was engaged in heavy fighting on the afternoon of January 30, 1944. While his unit was fighting off an enemy counterattack, he spotted two wounded Americans who had been hit less than 30 yards from an enemy gun emplacement. Hawks, braving deadly machine gun fire, crawled more than 50 yards in direct view of the enemy to administer first aid to his fall-

en comrades. Wounded twice, Hawks continued on, despite the severe pain from his shattered forearm. Displaying superhuman valor, he dragged his injured comrades back to friendly lines amid a hail of Nazi lead. After recovering from his serious wounds at Percy Jones, he was awarded the Medal of Honor on January 15, 1945. Hawks's other military decorations include the Silver Star, and two Purple Hearts.

Perhaps the most famous patient to recover at Percy Jones, Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii served with the 442nd Japanese-American regiment in Italy. On April 21, 1945, Second Lieutenant Inouye led his platoon into combat against a heavily defended German gun emplacement. Capturing an artillery gun and several mortars, Inouye and his men continued their attack on the German lines. Through a hail of enemy fire, Inouye crawled up the slope leading to the enemy positions, and threw two grenades. The Germans responded with a burst of fire that shattered Inouye's right arm. Though suffering from intense pain, Lt. Inouye refused evacuation, and continued fighting. He succeeded in single-handedly neutralizing the enemy gun emplacement, killing more than 25 enemy soldiers, and capturing eight others. Only after being hit a second time did he accept medical treatment for his serious wounds. Though his arm was eventually amputated, Inouye overcame his disabilities, and is now a U.S. Senator from Hawaii.

Sadly, U.S. officials did not want a Japanese-American Medal of Honor recipient at the time, and awarded Inouye the Distinguished Service Cross instead. It was not until 1998 that Senator Inouye finally received his Medal of Honor from President Clinton. In addition to the Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross, Inouye also received the Bronze Star, and two Purple Hearts.

First Lieutenant Charles L. Thomas, one of only seven African-American recipients of the Medal of Honor from World War II, was also a patient of Percy Jones Army Hospital. December 14, 1944 saw him riding in the lead vehicle of a convoy traveling through

the streets of Climbach, France, when the small detachment of American troops were ambushed by hostile forces occupying the town. Though seriously wounded in the first moments of the attack, Thomas signaled the other vehicles to halt, and helped the others in his scout car to safety. In an attempt to return fire on the Germans, Thomas was hit by another machine gun burst, inflicting numerous wounds to his chest, legs, and arms. Despite the intense pain from these injuries, Thomas directed the emplacement of two anti tank guns, which in a few minutes had all but destroyed the unit of German ambushers. After giving command to a junior officer, Thomas finally allowed himself to be evacuated from the battlefield. For his actions on this day, he initially received the Distinguished Service Cross. In 1997, this award was upgraded to a Medal of Honor, making Thomas one of only 3,398 to receive this decoration.

World War II was not the only war to see a Medal of Honor recipient treated at Percy Jones. Einar H. Ingman, a U.S. Army Sergeant also earned high honors for his contributions to the Korean War effort. Single-handedly charging a North Korean machine gun emplacement that had killed many of his fellow infantryman just moments before, Ingman killed the entire crew with a grenade and a few deadly shots from his rifle. After spotting another enemy emplacement a few yards away, Ingman charged it, too, but was wounded before he reached the heavily-armed bunker. With incredible courage, Ingman, though profusely bleeding, rose to his feet, and killed all members of the gun crew with his rifle, before falling unconscious from the loss of blood. As a result of his single action, more than 100 demoralized North Korean troops abandoned their weapons, and fled in a disorganized retreat. Sgt. Ingman had played a key role in the victory achieved by U.S. forces that day, and as a result, was awarded the Medal of Honor at the Percy Jones Army Hospital on August 2, 1951.

These men are just a few of the heroes whose lives were saved at the Percy Jones Army Hospital. Their stories of bravery are true, and must never be forgotten, for with the sacrifices that they made for their country, these men helped ensure that we could enjoy the freedoms we have in our country today. They are heroes in every sense of the word.

# A Century of Service

## Cornerstone History

It has been discovered that the cornerstone for building 2 was laid in 1902. Below is a description of the event and description of the cornerstone contents. As you will see, May 11th is the 100th anniversary of the stone.

SOURCE: From the Dedicatory Services of the New Main Building of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, dated 1904. Located in the History Department, Willard Public Library.

The cornerstone was laid on May 11, 1902. Between 10 and 12 thousand people came to Battle Creek to see the event. At 3pm, the ceremony began. Several speakers gave speeches and around 5pm, Dr. Kellogg took the platform.

The Doctor then gave a brief description of the contents which were placed in the copper box, to be imbedded in the stone, which contained copies of the daily newspapers published in the city, the articles of incorporation of the Michigan Sanitarium and Benevolent Association, photographs of the physi-

cians and many of the nurses' classes, several old and new coins, and at 5:20pm the box was sealed by a workman and made ready for its bed. Dr. Kellogg was then handed the trowel, and, after spreading the cement, the stone was pronounced true, level, and square, and lowered to its foundation at 5:25pm. Upon the reverse side of the

trowel used in laying the cornerstone the following sentiment was inscribed."

*"Build as man may, Time gnaws  
and peers  
Through marble fissures, granite  
rents  
'Tis only principle that rears  
Imperishable monuments."*



# A Century of Service

## Centennial Committee Members

The following is a list of those in the community who comprise the Battle Creek Federal Center Centennial Committee: Mary Butler,

Julie Bauer, Joyce Davis, Sandi Jasper, Joseph Layton, Andy Layton, Don McClow, Nils Strand, Michael Martich, Duff Stoltz, Beth Turner,

Lorraine Cowe, Stan Cottrell, Teri Pearce, Kathy Armstrong, Marda Redditt, Paula Young and Janine DesVoignes



Joyce Davis, Federal Center; Don McClow, Federal Center; Kathy Armstrong, AFGE Local 1626; Janine Des Voignes, Federal Center; Sandi Jasper, Federal Center, Chair; Joe Layton, Federal Center; Teri Pearce, BC Visitor and Convention Bureau; Andy Layton, Local Historian, Paula Young, BCU; Michael Martich, Local Historian; Julie Bauer, Federal Center; Nils Strand, Federal Center; Duff Stoltz, Cereal City Museum, Local Historian

## David P. Keith's Distinguished Service



David P. Keith from Spokane, WA, was drafted by the U.S. Army in April, 1942 at the age of 30. Prior to being drafted, he worked as an orthopedic technician for a company that crafted artificial arms, legs and braces. Upon completion of basic training he was transferred to Walter Reed General Hospital in August 1942. At Walter

Reed General Hospital, he worked in the medical department where he designed, crafted and fitted artificial limbs for WWII patients. He was selected for a self-portrait by a distinguished American artist, Francis Criss, who was presidentially appointed to document WWII Army Medicine in pictures. The oil painting depicts Sgt. Keith working



on a metal and leather back brace. The painting was displayed at Walter Reed General Hospital for many years, and is currently on display at the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. After attaining the rank of M/Sgt, he was transferred to Percy Jones in July, 1944. During his tour at Percy Jones Army Hospital as Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) in charge of the Orthopedic Shop, he was awarded the Army Commendation Ribbon for outstanding service performed as an Orthopedic Mechanic and artificial brace and limb maker. In 1948, he was also appointed as a permanent Panel Member of the board of U.S. Civil Service Examiners. While in the Orthopedic Division, he and Col. Knox Dunlap created and designed a sliding bone plate, which increase joint mobility (i.e., connecting bone fractures). It was called the "Dunlap Sliding Bone Plate". M/Sgt Keith received an Army Certificate of Merit by the Surgeon General, Department of the Army for this invention. In September of 1953, he was honorably discharged while working at Percy Jones Army Hospital. He re-entered government service in 1965 as a civilian working for the Defense Logistics Services Center (DLSC). He retired from DLSC in 1979 with a total of 25 years of government service.

## Flowers for the Federal Center



*This picture of the corsage is amusing. I asked someone to take a picture of the corsage. That's what they did, leaving out my head.*

The Federal Center holds many memories for most of Battle Creek's long time residents. Mine are most poignant concerning the Percy Jones era. My brother, Captain Daniel B. Stevens, was brought back there from the front in World War II. He was later transferred to Crile Hospital in Cleveland, where he was hospitalized another six years.

The lads in Percy Jones were like the Citizens of Battle Creek's extended family. We did whatever we could to make them feel at home. I even taught Corsage Making and Flower Arranging.

Once, the widow of Percy Jones phoned the Capital Florist at Christmas during the war and wanted a large wreath placed in front of his picture (She lived on the East Coast). I asked if I could deliver it; it was 3' in diameter. The large picture was to the left of the main entrance (Van Buren and Washington).

No one was nearby when I placed the wreath, so I knelt and offered a prayer for the spiritual being of the General and all the soldiers.

The most exciting experience concerning Percy Jones Army Hospital was the day in 1944 when actress Loretta Young visited the soldier patients. We at Capital Florist received a frantic phone call from a soldier in a ward on the third floor to say Loretta was passing through

and they wanted a corsage for her – pronto! That was my job. Boy, did I hurry and, of course, insisted on taking it. I rushed hill bent for Percy Jones. Arriving on the third floor, I learned she had gone to another ward. I chased after her, now with a retinue of patients, the most persistent a legless soldier swinging on crutches. We sailed up and down the elevator, always just too late for Loretta.

Finally on the first floor, we learned her cavalcade was just leaving the circle drive. The light at the corner was red, which helped. A half dozen cars went round the corner. Now we are abreast. The police escort halted us. I said, "No! These soldiers have a corsage for Ms. Young." Having the legless patient by my side probably turned the trick.

We went across the street to Ms. Young's Limo. She rolled down the window. I helped the soldier pin on the corsage. Ms. Young kissed him on the cheek and we stepped back and slowly returned to the hospital.

## The Chief Projectionist



Rollin Huard, 1973

It was some time between 1926 and 1929 that my father, Rollin A. Huard, gained recognition for completing a technical program and for becoming a certified projectionist. This program prepared a student to operate motion picture equipment and instructed them on stage preparation and lighting. At this time dad was among few in the state to be certified. During this time, he was living with his parents at 84 Bond Street in Urbandale. Among his first jobs as a projectionist, dad took a job in Bay City and moved there. He eventually met a young lady by the name of Doris Graveline and married her in 1931. Dad continued to work in Bay City until 1933. When a job opening came up in Saginaw, dad took his young family of three and moved to Saginaw. His new employer was a gentleman by the name of Cassidy. Mr. Cassidy owned a number of motion picture theaters. In 1942, Mr. Cassidy offered dad a position managing two of his theaters in Midland. By this time the family grew to six including mom and dad. Fortunately, the move to Midland was just a short 15 miles north. Dad's new job was to oversee what was then known as the Michigan Recreation Center. This complex included a movie theater and a bowling alley. In addition, he would oversee the operation of the Frolic Theater in downtown Midland. At this time World War II was in progress and the U.S. Government rec-

ognized the importance of maintaining a certain amount of normalcy on the home front. Thus, my father was granted a deferment from military duty because of his position to provide recreation on the "home front."

It was March 8, 1946 when dad accepted a job at Percy Jones Army Hospital. This returned dad to Battle Creek, his old stomping grounds, where he was raised as a child. Again, mom and dad packed up their household effects along with their five children who ranged in age from 18 months to 15 years and moved to Battle Creek. Dad's job at Percy Jones Army Hospital was Chief Projectionist. This job entailed providing motion picture entertainment to the 1,500 patients at the hospital. Previously, volunteers did this for the patients. Apparently, the hospital administration wished to establish a more consistent and comprehensive recreation program. At first, dad's responsibility was to establish and set up this recreation program with volunteers. However, as the program developed, he hired a fulltime staff. Dad's primary duty was to set protocol, rent movies and schedule his staff to make sure all patient wards were provided with motion picture entertainment. On any given day the same motion picture could be shown three or four times on different wards. Since most of the patients were bedridden, this entertainment was very important and I am sure very much appreciated. Dad and his staff were frequently praised and thanked for their job which brought joy to these military heroes. As a child, when visiting my dad at his office, I felt almost overwhelmed by the majestic look and size of the hospital. There

always seemed to be so much hustle, busyness and traffic in the hallways. To say the least, it was almost overpowering for a youngster.

In 1953, upon the closing of Percy Jones Hospital dad accepted a transfer to the V.A. Hospital. He accepted a position as supervisor of Projection Equipment Operations in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services. It was about this same time that this department had just opened a new state-of-the-art building which housed a rehabilitation therapy swimming pool along with an auditorium. Dad's new job was to supervise the scheduling of motion pictures to the many wards, as well as, oversee the many functions of the new auditorium. This auditorium was built to accommodate professional entertainment. As a child it was always a treat for me when dad would take me with him to see a "star" perform on stage. One such opportunity, as I recall, the patients were entertained by a professional tap dancer by the name of "Peg Leg Bates." He was a black gentleman who had appeared a number of times on the Ed Sullivan Show and was very popular in the 40's and 50's. He had only one leg and a wooden stump like Captain Hook. He was very talented.

It was a few years after dad transferred to the V.A. Hospital that the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service's budget was drastically cut. My dad learned that he could no longer afford to budget the rental of 35 mm motion pictures to run in the auditorium. Dad was always a person of great ingenuity. He would work long and hard to develop and to engineer a system, which was considered very unique for that period of time. Dad developed a process that allowed a projectionist the ability to run a 16 mm motion picture in the auditorium on a 35 mm projector. This was not only a mechanical feat to accomplish but somewhat of a visual phenomenon. To be able to "throw" or "project" 16 mm photography that distance and still maintain "grain" was amazing. This accomplishment was recognized by the hospital administration who presented dad with a special award.

I firmly believe my father thoroughly enjoyed his career and the service he provided to our military heroes and their families. My father retired October 23, 1970.



Rollin Huard is in the second row on the left with the bow tie. Photo was taken at the Federal Center in 1948

## Famous Entertainers Brought Hope, Cheer to Percy Jones



The USO Theatre at Percy Jones (the old B.C. Sanitarium gym, now the fitness center).



Bob Hope and his W.W. II troupe chat with a hospitalized serviceman during one of his many visits to undisclosed war zones.

Throughout the years that Percy Jones Army Hospital was in existence, from 1943 to 1953, it was commonplace for visitors to be seen throughout the building. Yet, there were very special visitors whose presence brought cheer, hope and a moment of special recognition to the recuperating soldiers. In the days when television was on the horizon and radio was king, the patients at Percy Jones were treated to bedside visits and concert hall performances from their idols of the day. It didn't need to be dark for stars to shine in Battle Creek.

While personal appearances and live performances in the 1940s and '50s were moments to be savored and talked about for years by any of the general public, to a wounded soldier with limited access to the outside world, visits from Hollywood stars and nationally known entertainers were life-changing moments to be remembered forever. Personalities only seen in movies, on the theatre stage or heard on records came to Percy Jones. Throughout the years, the roster of entertainers who came to Battle Creek would read like a "Who's Who" of Hollywood films and the "Hit Parade," the "top ten" show airing first on radio and later, television.

### Stage and screen stars abound

On any given day, actor Alan Ladd could be seen shaking hands and listening to stories in each of the wards. Jazz drummer Gene Krupa might dodge from one room to the other while Dinah Shore would take the time to sit on the edge of a bed with a recuperating soldier, talk about home and sing one of his favorite songs. Belying his "tightwad" screen persona, a generous Jack Benny would wind his way through the Palm Garden Room to sign autographs. Edgar Bergen and "Charlie McCarthy" would even host Operation Santa Claus.

Gene Autry, the Singing Cowboy, made numerous visits. Aside from his singing career and movie roles, he was also Sgt. Gene Autry, making weekly national broadcasts from military bases around the country. In true cowboy tradition, appearing with his horse "Champion," Autry always made sure everyone knew that "a real cowboy was a patriot."

### "Live from Percy Jones in Battle Creek . . ."

During World War II, USO (United Service Organizations) Camp Shows entertained the "boys" and hospital staff

in what is now part of the basement area of the building. For larger audiences, the "reconditioning building" (now the Field house for the Battle Creek Schools) could hold thousands. It was there that the musical names of the day performed live broadcasts of the National Barn Dance, Earl Carroll Vanities (the original Rockettes), Ted Mack's Amateur Hour and "Your Hit Parade."

Singers such as Rosemary Clooney, the Inkspots, Vaughn Monroe, the Mills Brothers, Paul Robeson and Eddie Cantor represented a complete musical spectrum. Big Band leaders of the day, Art Kassel, Jan Garber, Tony Pastor, Louis Prima, Guy Lombardo, Duke Ellington and Stan Kenton all brought their own particular style of "chartbusting" music for everyone to enjoy and would broadcast their shows "live from Percy Jones Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan."

### Bob Hope traveled here to cheer the troops

One memorable visit was recorded for posterity when Bob Hope and his traveling troupe of radio stars Vera Vague, Trudy Ewan and Jerry Colonna

arrived at Kellogg Field in a DC-3 from Detroit, with Hope actually at the controls in the pilot's seat.

According to a feature article in *The Enquirer And News*, dated May 26, 1947, from the moment the troupe touched down at 5 p.m., they were in constant motion. "They were whisked to the hospital where more than 3,000 patients and duty personnel saw a one and one-half hour show in the huge reconditioning gymnasium. Stopping only briefly for a sandwich and a cup of coffee, the troupe, when not on stage, could be found making personal visits to those patients unable to attend the show. Hope also took time to recall old times with Capt. Ray Wild, a patient at Percy Jones. Capt. Wild, a B-17 pilot with the 8th Air Force, had appeared with Hope and Bing Crosby on 'bond drives,' and was on hand to renew acquaintances. When the group was scheduled to depart, the entire troupe was still visiting the wards and seeing as many patients as possible." The interest, concern and respect shown by Bob Hope for "our boys" displayed his approach to every USO show for decades to come.

The Percy Jones Hospital era typified the best of a time when the "greats" of the entertainment industry truly recognized and honored those who paid a high price to keep their country and the world free.

### Battle Creek commemorates a "Century of Service," a new name

At 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 31, 2003, exactly 100 years to the minute from the moment Dr. John Harvey Kellogg dedicated the "new" Battle Creek Sanitarium, the 100th Anniversary and a "Century of Service" will be commemorated. During the program, which is open to the public, the building's new name, the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center, will be officially recognized. Proposed by U. S. Senator Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and approved April 7, 2003 by the General Services Administration, the new name ushers in a new century for the historic building.

Tours of the historic property will be available during the celebration by reservation only. Open to the public, tours will run from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on Saturday, May 31 and from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Sunday, June 1. Call 269-961-7015 or 961-7017 by Thursday, May 29, to make reservations.

## Saving "East Cupcake"

This is the sixth in a series of articles on the history of the building, which has housed the Battle Creek Sanitarium, the Percy Jones Army Hospital and the Federal Center during its 100 year history. A committee of local citizens is planning a series of events to celebrate the people and organizations who worked in the building since it was opened in May 1903. The celebration will culminate in a public program on the anniversary of the dedication of the Sanitarium in May, 2003.

After Percy Jones Army Hospital closed at the end of the Korean War, there was considerable concern locally about the loss of jobs. Good news came when it was announced that the national offices of the Federal Civil Defense Agency were being moved from Washington, D. C. to Battle Creek. In addition, the Staff College of the National Civil Defense Training Center was transferred here from Olney, Maryland.

The Staff College had a unique mission, to educate local civil defense workers across the country about how to protect their hometowns from the devastating effects of an atomic blast. Between 1954 and 1968, over 30,000 resident students attended the Staff College courses in Battle Creek. In addition, many more volunteers took extension courses sponsored by the Staff College at 52 participating universities and colleges around the country.



The courses prepared by the Staff College included Civil Defense Management, Shelter Management, Radiological Defense and Civil Defense Adult Education.

The first of the off-site training programs conducted by the Staff College was held in Columbus, Ohio, in August 1954, just a few months before the agency moved to Battle Creek. A reporter from the Battle Creek *Enquirer and News* attended the three-day event and sent back vivid accounts of the education of the 35 volunteers, under the direction of Dr. W. Gayle Starnes.

The problem the students faced was a hypothetical atomic bomb attack on "Big City X." This meant that 3,000 citizens had to be immediately evacuated to "East Cupcake," a small town of

10,000 residents, 35 miles away. The classes included theoretical discussions of organization, transportation, communications and evacuation procedures as well as a series of disaster problems to solve. The climax of the course came on the final day when the students had to take all their theoretical learning and apply it to the situation in "East Cupcake."

At this time civil defense planners believed that the best way to assure safety for the majority of Americans in the event of a catastrophic attack was to evacuate the population from the large target cities to nearby smaller towns, which would not normally be vulnerable as targets of attack. They believed that "it will be the small towns and cities that bring America back" from the devastation caused by an atomic bomb blast. The big cities would be too badly damaged "to rise without the helping hands of the smaller communities."

But evacuation posed many logistical problems, which had to be resolved by the local civil defense workers. How does the host town absorb a group a third the size of its existing population? How are the refugees transported into town? Where are they housed, fed and treated for possible injuries?

These were real questions which demanded specific answers, and not just for the mythical "East Cupcake." After all, it could be Battle Creek facing this issue, if Detroit or Chicago were ever attacked.

The instructors from the Staff College had to prepare volunteers to return to their communities ready to galvanize the residents into preparing a plan for surviving the unthinkable. The doctors and hospitals, the police, teachers, firefighters, block wardens, civic leaders and parents all had to take a role in assuring that their community was prepared to answer tough questions. What would they do if fires raged out of control, communications were disrupted, hospitals were overrun with victims, the transportation system was in shambles and panic was setting in?

Only the civil defense workers with advance training would be prepared to deal with this drastic scenario. The educators of the Staff College, headquartered in Battle Creek from 1954 through 1979, had the primary responsibility for providing this essential training for the nation.

## The Heart of the Matter



There has recently been some concern expressed regarding the name change of the Federal Center. Some of this response has even taken the form of negative comments. It is important to note that this is not the first time that the name of this facility has been changed. Initially, the facility was called the Battle Creek Sanitarium, then the Percy Jones Army Hospital, and now the Battle Creek Federal Center, soon to be the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center.

Even though the name of this facility will change, the activities will not. The importance of this facility to the community is not in the name. There are approximately 2000 jobs at the Federal Center that generate approximately One Hundred Million Dollars in income to the community. Although the economic impact is substantial that does not tell the story of the importance of this facility to the community.

I have had the opportunity and honor to attend many functions at the Federal Center. The professionalism and dedication of its employees have impressed me. The employees of the facility are constantly striving to upgrade and improve the product they deliver. The innovations that employees have come forward with have even resulted in the loss of jobs. This innovation has come not from the top down, but from the bottom up. This is not something that you would experience in the average work environment. This is, however, what you would expect at the Federal Center because no one that works there is average. You can see this by the community involvement of the employees. I regularly see employees in the community attending neighborhood meetings, involved in service clubs and volunteering in fundraising activities. The willingness to get involved and make a difference is the real importance that this facilities places in the community.

It does not matter to me what the name of the building is. A building is simply stone, concrete and wood. Although architecture may be esthetically pleasing, it adds little to the community.

To be a vital asset to the community, there has to be a heart. The heart of this facility is the people and the contribu-

tions that they make on a daily basis. Without the character, dedication and contribution made by the Federal Center employee, we would have an attractive building, which would add little to the community. It is the people of the Federal Center that make this facility great and such a vital importance to the City of Battle Creek.

I would like to thank everyone who works at the Federal Center; each of you makes a difference and makes the Federal Center and the city a better place within which to work and live. It does not make a difference what the name of the building is; it is each one of your names that is important.



## United We Stand...Proudly Celebrating Our Armed Forces!

Are you a Veteran? Burnham Brook Center wants you! As you remember the events and the wars of Korea, Vietnam, World War II, Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm and The American Red Cross, Canteens and The USO, we are taking a look back that won't soon be forgotten. You are invited to attend our celebration and help us honor you, our veterans. The Celebration of you our veterans, will begin at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 17th, 2003 with a Parade to salute you. The parade will go down West Michigan Ave. to Capital, go north to Van Buren St., and then back to the Burnham Brook Center. All veterans, their families and friends are invited to participate in the parade (there will be transportation provided for you to ride in the parade). Please call us to reserve your special place in the parade today.

Immediately following the parade there will be lunch available (for sale) in the dining room from 12 noon until 1:30 pm at The Burnham Brook Center.

There will be many displays of mem-



Display provided by Bill Back, A-Z Key Shop

orabilia from the different branches of the service for you to view as you visit with other veterans and their families and friends during the afternoon. Perhaps you have something of interest that you would like to display so that other veterans and friends in our community can view your history and pride.

Our Veterans Reunion will begin at 2:00 p.m.; this portion of the day will focus on saluting the veterans who graduated from different high schools around the area last year. Thanks to a special bill that was passed in Michigan and other states allowing veterans, who had to go to war but had not finished high school, the privilege of graduating from high school after all these years. There will be entertainment and a special guest speaker. The graduation ceremony here at The Burnham Brook Center was such a heart-warming experience that we all are looking forward to reuniting with the veterans from last year.

There will be entertainment and special movies for you to view at your leisure during the day. Lots of good stories will fill the air as you take the time to share your experiences with one another and become reacquainted with old buddies and make new friends after all these years. The veterans had such a wonderful time last year, and if you missed last year, you sure don't want to miss out this year.

The highlight of the day will be The Senior Prom that will be held at 7:00 pm. The Burnham Brook Center Lew Boyd Big Band will be furnishing the music. Did you attend your Senior Prom years ago? If you did or didn't you will be sure to enjoy the evening of listening and dancing music for your pleasure. The cost of the dance is \$3.00 for members; and \$6.00 for non-members refreshments are provided.

Please join us, for a day of honoring, saluting, remembering, memorabilia, nostalgia and great conversation. We want you, your pictures, your stories, your attendance and your remembering just how it was. This is a very important part of your lives, and we want you to share those experiences with others who need to know what it was like for you and your families. Be here for the parade, the reunion, the dance. This is your celebration. Please call 966-2566 ext. 333 for more information and to let us know the part you want to play in this very important day.

## The People - the Real Strength of the Federal Center

The Federal Center building stands as a pillar of strength in the community of Battle Creek, with a proud legacy of service behind it. But it's the people who are the heart of any organization. The employees are the ones who accomplish the objectives, and who make an organization a vital part of the community. And leadership is key: It sets the example and creates the culture.

**A Vibrant Workplace.** Leadership at the Federal Center invests in its nearly 2,000 employees through continuous learning programs, designed to enhance their technical and job-related skills, and to enhance their personal, family and social well-being. Creating a good quality work life environment is evidenced through affordable, high quality, on-site day care, and a fitness program that attracts an average of 300 employees per day. Family support initiatives reach out to support the well being of employees, and provide a climate that reduces stress and motivates employees.

The Family Advocacy Program sponsored 79 educational programs in 2002, including workplace violence training, a session on the Michigan Child Protection Law, stress management and couples communication. Lunch N Learn classes included, "The Confident Communicator;" Parent Workshops, giving employees additional tools and strategies to help improve and strengthen their child's behavior and character; and Emotional Intelligence.

There is a Kinship Care Support Group, for help with those raising a family member's child, and a Relocation Assistance Program to help reduce stress through education, counseling and stress management workshops. The Celebrating Diversity program recognizes the unique talents and backgrounds of all employees throughout the year. Cultural awareness programs feature speakers, performers, demonstrations and special food booths.

**Contributing to a Vibrant Community.** Look around Battle Creek. The impact of Federal Center employees' presence is felt everywhere through the countless men and women who serve on leadership boards for community organizations, those who coach and support the youth athletic programs, volunteers in the arts, community service programs, the schools, and in their faith communities. Employees have championed causes like the Combined Federal Campaign, Toys for Tots, Salvation Army's Adopt-a-family Program, American Red Cross Blood Drives, Habitat for Humanity, and much

more. They are role models for character in the community. Employees mentor and tutor students through the Adopt-a-School program, team up for fun to help with the annual Zoo Boo at the Binder Park Zoo, and join local area businesses and organizations in the Food Bank Food Sculpture Exhibit to collect food and raise aware-

ness for the local food bank.

Yes, Dr. John Harvey Kellogg would be proud. The Federal Center has created a vibrant, healthy place of work for its employees, and in turn they have reached out to contribute to a vibrant, healthy community. His legacy of health, exercise, and taking care of others continues.

## Percy Jones, a Family Affair

I was born at Percy Jones Army Hospital in 1946 but my family's association with PJ started two years earlier, when my father, Elmer Swann, was sent to the hospital to recover from a serious wound suffered in battle during World War II.

At the age of 18, after graduating from high school, my father entered the Army. He was brought up knowing this was the right thing to do even though it would mean placing himself in harm's way. Both his father and grandfather had served on active duty in the military. Like many other families at the time, his family considered it a patriotic duty they owed to their country. So, in 1943 my father entered basic training.

On December 19, 1943 my parents were married in Houston, Texas before my father left for active duty. Later that year, he was shipped overseas to take part in the invasion of Normandy, D-Day. That was a bloody battle but a glorious victory for the Allies, which sealed Hitler's defeat.



Elmer Swann

Here's how my father described the circumstances in which he was wounded. "I was in there on the Normandy beach in 1944. Bombs were going off all around me and I saw lots of people being shot. My dear friend, Eugene Brownwell, entered the service with me directly from high school on the buddy system. We were both there on the beach together and both of us got hit but Eugene was mortal-



Sherry Swann

ly wounded. I tried to help Eugene but he bled to death before a Medic arrived. I was devastated at being unable to save the life of my best friend and buddy. I lay on the beach with him for two days before I received medical treatment for a leg wound, pondering why I lived and why he had to die." My father felt really bad about Eugene's death and he visited his grave many times throughout his lifetime. In addition, he named his second son after Eugene.

My father was then sent to Mayo Hospital in Galesburg, Illinois. The Army tried to send the seriously wounded back to the state where they came from but often there was not enough room. All of the hospitals were filled up. At that point in time, Dad befriended another patient with a leg wound, Chet Hunter, who was later to become my uncle. Then they were both shipped to Percy Jones Army Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan. My mother brought her sister Darlene up to visit my father and she met Chet Hunter. They fell in love. My aunt and uncle truly shared a bittersweet military love story. My father had surgery in Percy Jones Hospital, a procedure which he was forced to repeat every year of his life until he died. He spent over two years of his life at the hospital. My Uncle Chet Hunter opted to not have surgery done on his leg so he was transferred to the Percy Jones Annex, where he was discharged from the military. They were roommates for only a short period of time at PJ before my uncle was sent to the Annex. When my Uncle was discharged, my aunt and uncle were married. They had known each other for only a short period of time and people told them their marriage would never last. Well guess what, their marriage has been going strong for 50 years.

## Federal Center Engineer Served Fifty Years in Same Complex

Glen F. Merriam moved from employment with the Battle Creek Sanitarium to government employment with the War Department, later to become the Department of Defense, in 1942. He was one of the first employees hired by Col. Norman T. Kirk, commanding officer of Percy Jones Army General Hospital. Col. Kirk later became Surgeon General of the United States. Mr. Merriam continued as general engineer during WW II through 1953. The hospital was closed at that time until August, 1954, when the Federal Civil Defense Administration occupied the center and the General Services Administration assumed responsibility for the complex. Mr. Merriam continued as general engineer and remained in that position until his retirement in 1968 after fifty years working in the same buildings.

Prior to his moving into government service, Mr. Merriam had been employed by the Battle Creek Sanitarium since 1918, the year that he came to Battle Creek with his family from Mesick, Michigan. When he joined the Sanitarium staff, he was employed as apprentice electrician. From that position, he rose to general engineer at the Sanitarium.

For many years the Battle Creek Sanitarium and Federal Center produced electricity and heat for the complex through coal powered boilers and steam turbines and pumped and treated up to 300,000 gallons of water daily used in the complex. Up to 6,000 tons of coal a year were used to produce 10 million pounds of steam per month.

A number of former Sanitarium employees came over to the government along with Mr. Merriam, among them were Charles Gilchrist, Frank Witzke, Orville and Forrest Cripps, Ernest Steiner and Alfred McDonald, all employed in power production or maintenance.

In later years, Mr. Merriam occupied offices once used by Dr. Kellogg in the old Sanitarium building. Mr. Merriam persuaded the government to retain many of the rich murals that lined the dining rooms at the time, many of which remain intact today.



Glen F. Merriam (left) and Charles Gilchrist