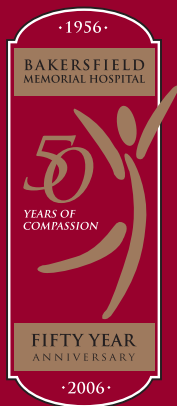


FIFTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY



The Golden Anniversary of a
Dream Come True



Bakersfield Memorial Hospital
CHW

420 34th St Bakersfield, CA 93301 (661) 327-4647
www.BakersfieldMemorial.org

Dear Community Members,

This brochure is not just about the 50th anniversary of a hospital, it's your 50th anniversary as well. This is the celebration of the "marriage" between Greater Bakersfield Memorial Hospital and this community—and a very happy marriage it has been.

A Community Hospital Built to Serve All of Us

The hospital is now—as it has always been and always will be—owned and controlled by the people of Bakersfield and Kern County. You built it, you improved and expanded it, and what the future of Memorial Hospital will be, will be up to you, the community. And judging from what this community has done so far, our future couldn't be in better hands.

So this brochure is a tribute to a 50-year partnership that has only grown stronger over time. As hospital president, I want to express my gratitude to you all, for what you have done, for what you are doing and for what you will do for our hospital.

Without you, the community, there wouldn't even be a hospital, and we at Memorial never for one single moment forget that.

With gratitude,



Jon Van Boening



Above: Driving north on Chester Avenue through downtown Bakersfield in 1950.

Below: Bakersfield sign on Union Avenue in 1950.

In the 1950's, the city of Bakersfield found itself in desperate need of a new hospital.

The existing medical facilities were severely overcrowded. Patient rooms meant for two often had to handle three or four occupants—and even that was not enough to fill the need. As impossible as it seems to us today, patients found themselves put behind screens in corridors, and stashed away in attics and linen closets.

People recuperating from illness or surgery were sent home at the earliest possible moment—sometimes in the middle of the night—to make way for others more seriously ill or injured.

Voluntary hospitals in Bakersfield had no pediatric facilities for sick children, no isolation sections for patients with communicable diseases, and no reserve beds for victims of multiple accidents, epidemics or disasters.

In 1951, a group of dedicated community members decided it was time to begin solving the problem and the Greater Bakersfield Memorial Hospital Association was born.

The estimated cost of building the hospital was over two and a half million dollars, with more than a million of that needing to come directly from the people of Bakersfield.

A deadline was looming—the money had to be raised in just a few months in order to qualify to receive matching funds from the federal government. So the members of the hospital association worked tirelessly on what they named "The Victory Campaign."





Community members gather in 1951 at the future site of Memorial Hospital to hear Board President Ralph Smith officially announce the success of the Victory Campaign.

Photo by Reineking's Photography

On September 15, 1956, hundreds of people came to celebrate Bakersfield Memorial Hospital's official dedication.

In a fundraising brochure, the members of the Greater Bakersfield Memorial Hospital Association explained their dedication to this cause:

"The Victory Campaign is a community enterprise. It is not merely a doctor's project. (Although no group is more aware than the doctors of the danger inherent in the acute shortage of hospital facilities here.)

It is not merely a movement which has been undertaken by a selected group of businessmen, nor is its objective a fine new building filled with gleaming new models of late-type equipment.

The ultimate concern of the Victory Campaign is neither dollars nor buildings, but the solution of the hospital problem—the provision of new facilities which will result in saving and lengthening human lives."

Needless to say, the money was raised.

Construction of the new, state of the art, 112 bed hospital began in 1954 and the main building was completed in 1956.

They were celebrating more than the completion of a state-of-the-art hospital—they were celebrating the strength and dedication of a community that had refused to let go of its dream, and had raised more than a million dollars to make it happen.

From day one Memorial Hospital was owned—literally and figuratively—by the people of Bakersfield and Kern County.

Meeting one of the greatest needs of the community, Memorial devoted one wing of the first floor to a pediatrics department, featuring the only hospital rooms in Bakersfield designed especially for the comfort of sick infants and children. The department included 16 beds, an isolation nursery and treatment rooms.

But even as early as the 1950's, the leadership at Memorial Hospital was constantly concerned with improving and expanding. In 1958, the North Building, containing Cobb Hall and the Purchasing and Personnel department, was completed. In 1959, construction of 2nd Floor West brought the hospital's total number of beds up to 130.

The Memorial Hospital Auxiliary was organized in 1957—and in 1959, under the leadership of Mrs. Charles Mavin and Mrs. John F. Ahearn, Jr., the auxiliary held the first "High Fever Follies" to raise money for the hospital's continuing growth.

The decade proved to be one of the most significant in the history of Greater Bakersfield Memorial Hospital.

Certainly many things happened—but two of them were key developments that had profound, long-term effects.

The first of those was the departure of hospital administrator W. Kevin Hagerty and the appointment of C. Larry Carr as the hospital's new leader.

Hagerty, who had been hired while the hospital was still under construction, left in 1965 to go to work for the Lutheran Hospital Association. Fresh from receiving his degree in business administration from USC and Master of Science degree in Public Health from UCLA, young Larry Carr had come to Memorial Hospital in 1964 to work as an administrative assistant.

There was a bit of an awkward phase—the Board initially hired a new administrator from out of town. He lasted 32 days.

Having already proven himself capable beyond his 26 years, Carr was made acting administrator as the Board

1960

The finishing touches on the thermometer show the community raised 100% of the money needed to build Memorial Hospital.

Photo by Reineking's Photography



Right: Nurses at their station in the hospital's newly remodeled Intensive Care unit.

Below: Chief X-Ray Technician Carl Rind poses with some of Memorial Hospital's cutting edge technology in 1960.



1960



embarked on another search for the perfect person to lead Memorial Hospital. It turned out the perfect man was already on the job!

Although still only the “acting” administrator, Larry moved boldly forward. He hired a new chief pharmacist, a new controller and a new director of nursing. After three months, Board Chairman Ralph Smith asked Carr if he would like to apply for the job on a six month trial. Their contract was a handshake.

The second major development involved Memorial's birth as “The Baby Hospital.” In 1968, the first expectant fathers were able to pace the lovely waiting room in the Arkelian Memorial Maternity Pavilion. The pavilion included three large delivery rooms, eight labor rooms and 51 bassinets, as well as 36 additional beds. The sophistication of the facility and the excellence of the care soon made the hospital one of the foremost obstetrical centers in California.

The construction of the state-of-the-art Maternity Pavilion was another example of the philosophy the hospital has operated by from the beginning—when Memorial Hospital embarks upon a particular area of care, it seeks to acquire the technology and attract the staff and physicians to quickly become the undisputed leader in it.

But what was most important was the vital service it provided to this community. Our babies were born in comfort and safety, and those struggling received the best care and the best chance for a long and happy life. In virtually every home and business in Bakersfield today — you will find people who were born at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital.

Memorial's Master Plan continued to push forward. Through remodeling and reorganization, the hospital's capacity increased yet again — up to 206 beds in 1969.

1970

It was an ambitious and somewhat inconvenient project—but when the remodeling was completed in 1973, no one questioned its wisdom or worth.

Since construction began in 1954, there has rarely been a year when something new wasn't being planned or built at Memorial Hospital. Under the leadership of administrator Larry Carr, Memorial Hospital continued to increase in both size and excellence throughout the 1970s.



Above: A Memorial Hospital patient arrives by air to be greeted by Dr. George Ablin, M.D., Marvin Beck, hospital chief engineer, W. Kevin Hagarty, hospital administrator, and Virginia Giovenco, hospital nursing supervisor.

Photo by The Bakersfield Californian

Right: Neil Shubert, Chief Medical Technologist, demonstrates the new ultramicro analytical laboratory system.

Photo by C. Allenthorp Photography



Medical technology was changing rapidly and so was the city of Bakersfield. In the early 70s the hospital began remodeling almost every ancillary service, including the X-ray department, laboratory, physical therapy department, nuclear medicine and surgical services. Improvements were also made to the business office, cafeteria, pharmacy, personnel department, and the physicians' and nurses' lounges.

The community now had access to the newest and most sophisticated ways to diagnose and prevent cancer in the Reid Nuclear Medicine Department. The X-ray department was dramatically larger — and was equipped with the most modern imaging technologies. Thanks to the remodel, the hospital was now equipped to perform the relatively new procedures known as angiography and arteriography, allowing physicians to detect heart problems before a heart attack could strike.

The surgical suite was expanded and a new 13-bed recovery room created for surgical patients. The laboratory was doubled in size with a new “stat” lab to handle testing for critically ill and urgent cases.

And the new 4,500 square foot Physical Therapy department offered new tools for patient rehabilitation through a gymnasium area and hydrotherapy facilities.

1980



The beautiful glass corridor connecting the new with the original sections of the hospital was completed in 1989.

During 1976 and 1977, construction was completed on the chapel, adult coronary care unit, and neonatal intensive care nursery. Other areas—such as the adult intensive care unit, Cobb Hall and the conference room were completely remodeled.

Then, on June 20, 1979, the facility brought emergency medical care in Bakersfield to a whole new level. The new Memorial Hospital Emergency Room was six times larger than the original one and equipped with the very latest life-saving equipment. The facility also included a second floor for future expansion and a roof that was structured to accept the future helipad.

Administrator Jon Van Boening describes the eighties as the “defining” decade for Memorial Hospital.

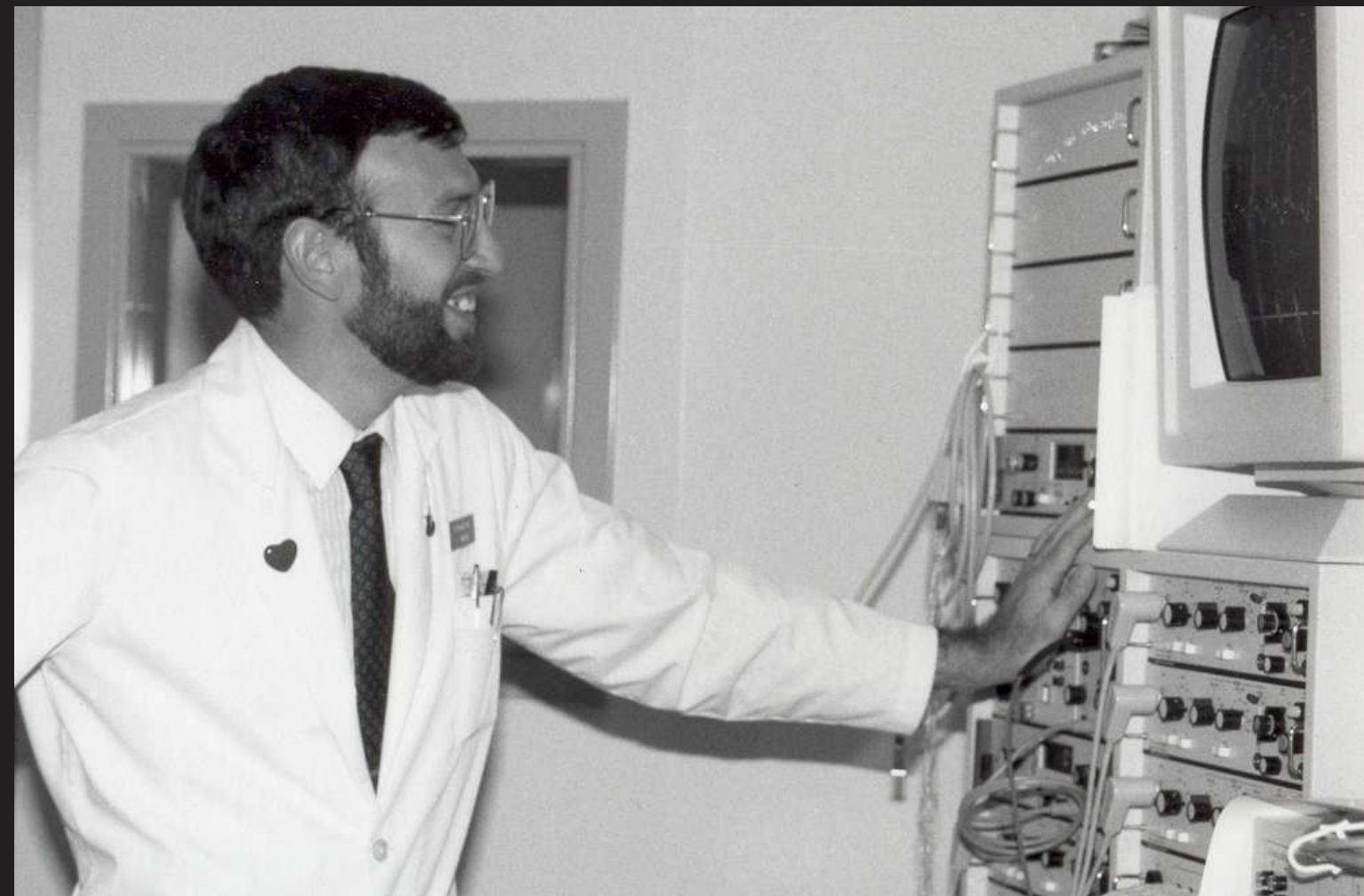
It is unlikely there would be a Greater Bakersfield Memorial Hospital without the dedication of Ralph Smith. In 1951, he was a founding member and the first president of the hospital association. He worked tirelessly to get the hospital built, and then to keep it growing. Ralph served as president or board chairman until his retirement in 1982.

Gordon Foster succeeded Ralph Smith as chairman of the board. A prominent local businessman, Gordon ably filled Ralph’s very large “shoes” and became the leader the hospital needed at a critical time in its development. In fact, he would ultimately be the recipient of the California Healthcare Association Leadership in Governance Award.

At a time when charitable giving was down and medical costs were up, when hospitals were failing across the country, Memorial’s leaders conceived a bold plan that would establish the Memorial Hospital Foundation, entail raising \$42 million dollars, and increase the hospital’s capacity by more than 50%.

“It was a courageous decision, a step of faith, really, faith in the hospital and the community. They could have stayed small and played it safe—but they didn’t think that was good enough,” Van Boening explains.

The most ambitious building project since the original construction of the hospital, the seven-story tower would add 114 patient beds and provide room to expand and increase several vital areas of treatment, including cardiovascular services.



Above: A Memorial Hospital Physician demonstrates new technology at the opening of the North Tower in 1985.

Below: Hospital Vice President Jerry Starr officiates at the opening of “Miracles on 34th Street” in 1988.

“With the construction of the tower came the opportunity to develop what soon became, and has remained, the city’s leading cardiac program,” Van Boening says.

Ground was broken in June of 1985, and the tower was partially opened in 1987. But the 5th floor Medical/Surgical units were fully operational and the hospital’s first open heart surgery was performed on November 17, 1987.

To the delight of expectant mothers across the county, the new facilities for Maternity Services opened in 1988. “Miracles on 34th Street” included 13 beautifully-decorated labor and delivery rooms, three rooms for C-sections, recovery rooms, a nursery and a 10-bed neonatal intensive care unit. For the first time in Bakersfield, a new mom could have her baby in both comfort and safety. The labor and delivery rooms had charming wallpaper and comfortable furniture, but the most sophisticated medical facilities in the city were just outside the door should any problems arise.

The final phase of the new construction was completed in 1989 with the beautiful glass corridor that connects the new north tower and Maternity Services with the original hospital building.



The Greater Bakersfield Memorial Hospital Association is founded. **Ralph Smith** is elected President.



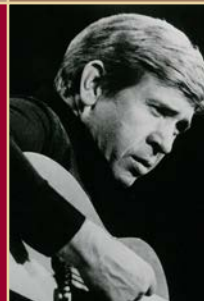
Construction begins on Bakersfield Memorial Hospital on 34th Street.



Additions to Memorial Hospital, to house the administration, engineering and housekeeping departments, are constructed.



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|--|-------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Bakersfield population: 228,309 | 1951 | Earthquake devastates downtown and causes more than \$50 million damage | | 1954 | | | Bakersfield Fire Department highest rated Class One fire department in the U.S. | 1960 | Construction of the East Wing Addition for Memorial Hospital begins | 1962 | Bakersfield College completes a new \$600,000 Science Building and celebrates 50th anniversary | 1966 | | The City of Bakersfield celebrates its centennial | |
| 1950 | | Houchin Blood Bank opens in Bakersfield, the first in the county. | 1953 | Construction begins on new Bakersfield College campus overlooking the bluffs | 1955 | Bakersfield's Frank Gifford leads the New York Giants to the NFL Championship and earns the league's MVP award | | Bakersfield population: 291,984 | 1961 | Bakersfield's Civic Auditorium opens | Cousin Herb dies of a heart attack at age 38 | Ground is broken for the Arkelian Maternity Pavilion at Memorial Hospital | California State College, Bakersfield is established by the State Legislature | 1969 | Extensive remodeling increases Memorial Hospital's capacity to 206 beds |
| | | 1952 | Cousin Herb's Trading Post debuts on KERO TV, starring Herb Henson | Local anchorman Burleigh Smith begins anchoring and producing the news | The Bakersfield Indians baseball team draws 100,000 fans for the season | 1956 | Buck Owens makes his first solo recordings at Tally Records in Bakersfield | | Unknown musician (fresh out of prison) named Merle Haggard joins "Cousin Herb's Trading Post" on KERO TV. | | 1963 | | 1968 | Alfred Harrell , publisher of <i>The Bakersfield Californian</i> , becomes the 24th person in the country to be inducted into the Newspaper Hall of Fame | |



Young **Buck Owens** gets a job at The Blackboard, playing in Bill Wood's Band for \$12.50 a night.



5000th baby born at Memorial Hospital

4,500 sq. ft. physical therapy department with gym opens



| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Bakersfield population: 330,234 | | 1973 | Chief Justice Earl Warren , who was raised in Bakersfield, dies | | 1977 | | 1979 |
| 1970 | Ground is broken for the 10-story Bank of America office tower on Truxtun Ave. | | 1974 | Dedication of the Lori Brock Children's Discovery Center on Chester Avenue | The Dust Storm of the Century | 1978 | CSUB wins its first national championship: Men's Wrestling |
| | 1972 | | Winter snowfall of 1.5" | 1976 | | | The highest average annual temperature on record: 56.52°F |



Ann Gutcher becomes the first woman to chair the Kern County Business Outlook Conference

Honoring The Auxiliary

The dictionary defines the word auxiliary as "giving support, serving as an aid, or a reserve for times of great need." But we could suggest a simpler definition, for the Greater Bakersfield Memorial Hospital Auxiliary fully defines the term in its title.

The Auxiliary was formed in 1957 under the leadership of Helen Clark and immediately took charge of the BMH Gift Shop. In their hands for the past 49 years, the Auxiliary has maintained not only a store that beautifully serves the needs of patients and visitors, but has contributed thousands upon thousands of dollars to the hospital.

In 1959 the Auxiliary created an event that soon became the social event of the season in Bakersfield: The High Fever Follies. The Auxiliary hired a professional director from New York and used local talent to produce a dazzling musical review.

The first year the Follies made \$13,500, which in today's dollars would equal almost \$80,000. The money was used to buy beds and other necessities for the hospital's East Wing. The "High fever Follies" continued to be a smashing success for the next twenty years.

The Auxiliary has also run leather sales, jewelry sales, uniform sales and book sales at the hospital to raise money for many different departments and projects.

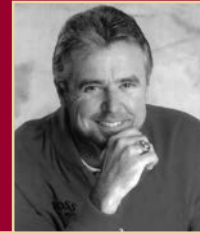


But a price tag cannot really be placed on the Auxiliary's value. For many people who come to the hospital, the "Pink Ladies" are the compassionate face and caring voice uniquely associated with Bakersfield Memorial Hospital.

Mary K. Shell is elected the first woman Mayor of Bakersfield



Bakersfield's Rick Mears becomes only the third man in Indianapolis 500 history to win four times at the Brickyard.



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|--|---|--|-------------|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| Bakersfield population: 403,089 | 1981 | CALM opens near Lake Ming | 1985 | | 1987 | | 1989 | Bakersfield population: 543,477 | 1991 | Fox network launches the sit-com Bakersfield P.D. which lasted 17 episodes | 1994 | Freak snowstorm drops 6" of snow in December of the wettest year | | Bakersfield population: 661,645 |
| 1980 | The first female firefighter is hired by the City of Bakersfield | Bakersfield Mariners become the Bakersfield Dodgers | | The first Bakersfield Business Conference (sponsored by the law firm Borton, Petriani & Conron) is a smashing success | | The first open-heart surgery is performed at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital | | Grand opening of the East Hills Mall | 1990 | 5.0 earthquake recorded 20 miles southwest of Bakersfield | Walter Stiern Library opens at CSUB | 1998 | | CSUB's Men's Swim Team begins a 4-year run as national champions |
| | CSUB wrestler Joe Gonzales goes undefeated with 55 victories, in single season | 1983 | | | | | 1988 | All-time record low temperature set in Bakersfield: 19°F | | 1993 | The Bakersfield rock group KORN releases its first album | | Bakersfield's Centennial Garden opens | 2000 |



Construction begins on the **North Patient Tower**



The new maternity department, **Miracles on 34th Street**, opens to expectant moms





City Councilman Kevin McDermott, administrator Larry Carr and board president Gordon Foster cut the ribbon at the opening of the new emergency room in 1994.

1990

"The value of Bakersfield Memorial Hospital in this community cannot be overstated. So many people in this community who might have died are alive, and so many more who would have suffered are healthy and whole. It doesn't get more meaningful or more important than that."

*Phillip E. Zachary
Former Greater Bakersfield Memorial
Hospital Board Member*

The 1990s found Memorial Hospital (as usual) involved in upgrading, improving and expanding.

The old labor and delivery area became the new diagnostics clinic, and 2-East was remodeled into a 14-bed telemetry unit.

The hospital's emergency room had seemed very large and sophisticated when it was built in the 1970s—but now it was becoming too small to handle the emergency needs of a rapidly growing city. After all—between 1980 and 1990—140,388 new people had moved to town!

The updated master plan called for a relocation and expansion of the emergency room and in 1992 the hospital got started on it. In the spring of 1994 the new emergency room opened on the north side of the campus and many Bakersfield residents began to have the experience of pulling up in front of the old emergency room and saying to themselves, "Wait—where did the emergency room go?"

In addition to dramatically expanded emergency medicine facilities, the project included three new heart catheterization labs, two surgical suites designed for open-heart surgery and a six-bed cardiovascular intensive care recovery unit.



1990 aerial view of Greater Bakersfield Memorial Hospital.

Photo by Ed Kreiser Photography

Continuing the vision.

Today, Memorial Hospital is a top-ranked regional medical center with a Cardiovascular Program that has been recognized as one of the best in the country. Other areas of excellence include Women's and Children's Services, Surgical Services, Orthopedics, Neurosciences, and now a Center for Wound Care and Hyperbarics.

Memorial Hospital is Bakersfield's largest medical facility, with 343 beds, and also serves as one of the city's largest employers.

The vision of the community leaders who first conceived of Memorial Hospital has been fulfilled and expanded – and the expansion isn't over yet!

Soon, construction will begin on Memorial's most challenging expansion ever – a five-story tower that will significantly increase both the hospital's size and sophistication.

We could not be more proud of our past, but we do believe Memorial Hospital's best years are still to come."

*Jon Van Boening
President*



The Bakersfield Memorial Hospital of the future, including a new 5-story Southwest Tower.

The tower will include a new Intensive Care Unit and a new Acute Care Unit, in addition to 60 private general medical care rooms and 30 private post-partum rooms for moms and babies. The expanded Emergency Department will include a new eight-bed Heart and Stroke Center.

In addition, the tower expansion will make it possible to upgrade technology throughout the hospital to include facility-wide wireless monitoring of patients.

It is no wonder Memorial Hospital finds itself so often in the middle of ambitious plans – it began as an ambitious plan by a few community members 50 years ago.





Remembering Larry Carr

Although Larry passed away after a short illness on March 10, 2002, the ongoing success and stature of Memorial Hospital continues to testify to the quality of his life.

Larry retired in 2000, after serving 33 years as Memorial Hospital's top administrator, staunchest supporter and (we're sure he would forgive the metaphor) head cheerleader.

His total of 36 years with Memorial made him the longest tenured administrator in California to serve at the same facility.

Bakersfield Memorial Hospital Board of Directors

1950s:

Ralph L. Smith, Jr., Chairman
Roderick Ogden, MD
A.L. Nevins
James Y. Camp
Hugh S. Jewett
Keith S. McKee, MD
J. Russell Kennedy
Lowell W. Saunders
Harry W. Lange
R. E. "Pete" Gignoux
Leonard R. Seaman

1960s:

Ralph L. Smith, Jr., Chairman
Roderick Ogden, MD
Leonard R. Seaman
James Y. Camp
Hugh S. Jewett
Keith S. McKee, MD
J. Russell Kennedy
R. E. "Pete" Gignoux
Harry W. Lange
J. E. Vaughan, MD
Ward C. Waterman

1970s:

Ralph L. Smith, Jr., Chairman
Roderick Ogden, MD
Leonard R. Seaman
Ward C. Waterman
Hugh S. Jewett
J.E. Vaughan, MD
J. Russell Kennedy
R. E. "Pete" Gignoux
Harry W. Lange
Gordon Foster
John R. Almklov, MD
Walter Condley
Robert L. Hoven
John J. Cawley, MD
G. A. Anderson, MD

1980s:

Ralph L. Smith, Jr., Chairman
Gordon K. Foster
Ward C. Waterman
Robert L. Hoven
John J. Cawley, MD
Thomas W. Smith
John R. Almklov, MD
Walter Condley
Theodore Bosonetto, MD

H. Knudsen, MD
Phil Zachary
Joel D. Mack, MD
C. Larry Carr
Gerhard H. Schmidt, MD
Randall A. Jacobs, MD
Edward H. Shuler
John M. Brock, Jr.
Robert C. Marshall, MD
D. Linn Wiley
Gene A. Anderson, MD
George Martin
Charles S. Ashmore, MD
Stephen D. Helper, MD

1990s:

Gordon K. Foster
Edward H. Shuler
John M. Brock, Jr.
Joel D. Mack, MD
Thomas W. Smith
C. Larry Carr
D. Linn Wiley
Gene A. Anderson, MD
George Martin
Charles S. Ashmore, MD
Stephen D. Helper, MD
Rodger L. Bick, MD
Stephen T. Clifford
John R. Findley, MD
James L. Burke
Bernard J. Herman
Madan Mukhopadhyay, MD
D. Bradley Hannink

2000s:

Gordon K. Foster
Edward H. Shuler
John M. Brock, Jr.
Thomas W. Smith
C. Larry Carr
Charles S. Ashmore, MD
Stephen T. Clifford
John R. Findley, MD
James L. Burke
Bernard J. Herman
Madan Mukhopadhyay, MD
D. Bradley Hannink
Jon Van Boening
Timothy Moran
C. Vincent Phillips, MD
Robert Noriega
Russell Judd
Susan Helper, MD
Morgan Clayton

