

# Centennial Moments

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## First Adventist hospitals rise in Loma Linda

When the Seventh-day Adventist Church purchased the hotel and 76 acres with the hill known as Loma Linda (Spanish for “beautiful hill”) in 1905, administrators immediately began to remodel their purchase for the purpose of medical care. The hotel was turned into a sanitarium for treating illness. With the establishment of a medical training course in 1909 came the need for expanded clinical facilities. Constructing the first Loma Linda Hospital was the response to this need.

The building was located in the middle of today’s basic science quadrangle, and would be bisected by the walkway between Magan Hall and Gentry Gymnasium. After a couple of years of starts and stops on its construction, the hospital was dedicated on December 1, 1913. The one-story building was 46 feet by 72 feet, constructed of concrete, with two wings to be used as wards. It had a capacity for about 70 patients which, unfortunately, was never reached. It remained almost empty of patients with a patronage, at most, numbering 15 to 26. Perhaps the real reason for its lack of success was the sparse population in the San

Bernardino region at that time. Eventually, the primary medical clinical training was moved to White Memorial Hospital and Los Angeles County Hospital in 1918.

After the closure of the first Loma Linda Hospital,



the building was renamed West Hall. The main floor of the structure contained an assembly room, which also functioned as a church sanctuary and chapel. The former hospital wards were used as a dormitory for male medical students until July 1942. The basement contained the cafe-

teria, dietitians’ laboratory, and a dispensary.

The Loma Linda Hospital was finally replaced with a new and improved facility in August 1924. This structure still stands as a part of the west end of Nichol Hall. The new hospital capacity was officially set at only 32. This building was built with private patient rooms, and keeping it filled was more successful.

Groundbreaking for the greatly enlarged addition was held only four years later in 1928. The expanded facility opened for business on March 30, 1929, and comprised the remainder of Nichol Hall except for the east wing, which was added in 1949. It served as the Loma Linda Sanitarium and Hospital until the present cloverleaf, nine-story Medical Center was built in 1967. Today Nichol Hall is home for the School of Public Health and the School of Allied Health Professions.

From its beginning in 1905, Adventist health care in Loma Linda has always sought to bring not only physical healing but also spiritual wholeness to those served. Seventh-day Adventists seek to follow Christ’s example in reaching out to the world in healing ministry.