

Grinnell General Hospital News



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Sup

Administration: ✓ the future is now

Any hospital that has only recently recognized the many problems in America's current health-care system has more than likely already sealed its own fate.

Those problems include high costs, limited access of health care to many individuals, daily changes in technology, and the ever-increasing pressure to provide outpatient types of care.

Luckily, Grinnell General Hospital's board of trustees was farsighted enough to take aggressive action when it was needed and move toward the accomplishment of goals down a well-planned path.

On the board in 1980 when the expansion program was put into motion were Russ Sams, Don Renaud, Bill Bolen, Mike Stewart, George Drake, Jack Hall, George King, John Kintzinger, Barry Olson, M.D., John Smith, Rick Ramsey, Marie Walker and Warren H. Bower, M.D.

Since then, Bolen, Stewart, Hall, King, Smith, Walker and Bower have left the board. They have been replaced by Marion Jones, Jim Urfer, Leta Arendt, Gordon Wold, Isadore Berman, Kathryn Sturtz and Bernard Wiltfang, M.D.

The trustees' major goals were the construction and completion of an addition designed to treat an ever-increasing load of patients, using outpatient and ancillary facilities.

Explains Michael Faas, Grinnell General administrator: "With the new federal regulations and reimbursement formulas, the focus for the future will have to be cost containment, improved efficiency and effectiveness, providing only those services that are truly essential for the community. We have to align ourselves with multi-hospital systems, and we must recruit appropriate physicians and other medical manpower."

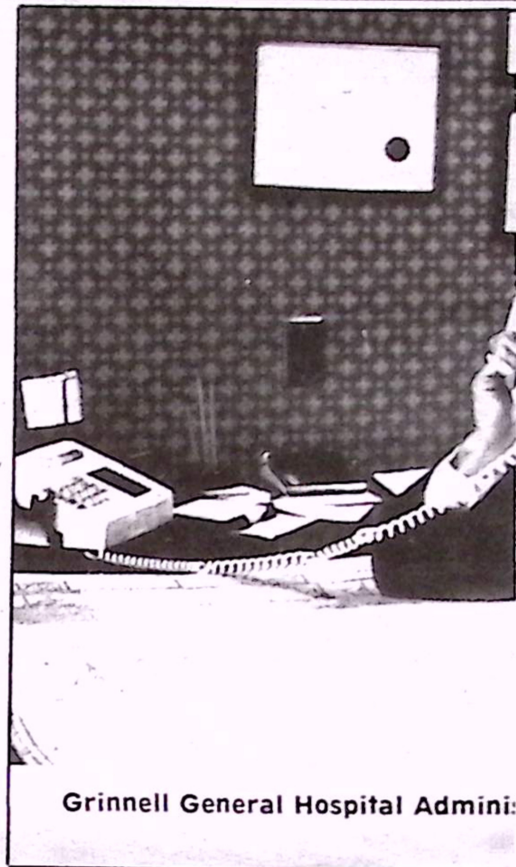
The federal government has forecast that 1,000 hospitals will close by 1990, and Faas predicts that it will be those hospitals that have most carefully planned and accomplished established, well-thought-out goals that will be the survivors providing the health care of the future. The days of hospitals surviving independently and with few outside pressures are long past.

The Long-Range Planning Committee, one of the board's standing committees, is one

formulating a new 5- to 10-year long-range plan for Grinnell General. The plan will identify and evaluate various alternative solutions to problems.

"A well-coordinated effort among the board, the medical staff and the administration will be essential to insure the success of our institution in the future," Faas says. "It will also be essential to have continued community support, to continue with our history of employing excellent employees who care, and the use of our generous and outstanding auxiliary and volunteers.

"Thankfully, because of the efforts of many individuals involved with the hospital and the community as a whole, the picture for the future of this hospital is bright. Steps have been taken to insure that this administration will meet many successes in the coming years. Much is left to be done, yet there is every reason to expect that, with the same committed individuals, our goals will be met and we will continue to be a strong, rural, central Iowa hospital well into the future."



Grinnell General Hospital Administration

Grinnell C how it all

At the turn of the century, hospital facilities in Grinnell, while a great service to the community, were nonetheless limited. Services were provided by two institutions, one a private hospital operating from 1901 to 1903, the other a municipal facility when opened about 1906.

Near the end of World War I, community sentiment was strongly in favor of creating a new hospital plant. A vigorous campaign met a hearty response, not only from Grinnell but also from a wide surrounding territory. Subscri-

lege students in

A plan was offered to the community by which, for each student who would be offered a room during the school year, including room, board, and tuition, when the student felt that the jury justified the plan.

Because so many of the general public were impressed by the arrangements which anyone could have, within three weeks of



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