

1930-39

1930s: During the Depression, some people trade goods for medical treatment. One resident recalls trading “a dozen eggs and a couple of chickens” for treatment of a punctured nail and doctor and patient were “completely satisfied with the transaction.” Because the region’s economy is mostly agriculture, it is not as badly hurt as the rest of the country.

1930: Lubbock census is 20,520 people, a quadruple increase over 1920.

1933: New sterilizing equipment installed in Lubbock Sanitarium’s operating department.

1934: Sanitarium’s x-ray department gains a radiographic unit, a fluoroscopic unit, a 240,000-volt deep therapy unit and a portable x-ray.

1935: Sanitarium adds an electrocardiograph for cardiac cases.

1935: Dr. O.R. Hand, obstetrics and Dr. Arthur Jenkins, infants and children, join the Sanitarium staff.

1936: Dr. M.C. Overton publishes *Your Baby and Child*, a book for mothers.



The Key family has three generations of service to Covenant Health and its predecessors. **From left:** Carolyn Corinne Wilkerson, Paula Wright Key, Chase Key, Charles and Roger Key holding art of their father Marion and Melissa Key Pierce.

CovQuiz

- Which doctor who joined Lubbock Sanitarium in the 1930s remained active until 1970, then worked with the State Department of Health Division of Tuberculosis Control until 1977?**
 - Dr. Robert McCarthy
 - Dr. O.R. Hand
 - Dr. Henri Mast
 - Dr. Emerson Blake
- Dr. Overton’s 1936 book “Your Baby and Child,” sold for:**
 - 50¢
 - \$1
 - \$2
 - \$3
- When Plains Hospital and Clinic opened in 1937, it was:**
 - The first hospital with beds that raised the patient up.
 - The first air-conditioned facility in Lubbock.
 - The first facility administered by nuns.
 - The first faith-based medical facility in Lubbock.

Greatest generations



The initials M, K and A represent the doctors who started Plains Hospital and it’s still in the floor at the Cafe J restaurant on 19th St.

1937: A small group of Lubbock physicians build and open their own hospital — Plains Hospital and Clinic — trying to avoid having to purchase stock in a hospital to have admitting privileges. The owners are Dr. Olan Key, internist; Dr. Sam Arnett and Dr. Frank B. Malone, an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist. Other staff are Dr. Pauline Miller, pediatrics (first female physician in Lubbock); Dr. M.M. Ewing, general practice and Jessie Byers, physical therapist.

1939: Two years after opening Plains Hospital and Clinic, the owners realize the facility is too small and they are not comfortable handling administration. They contact the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, Calif., who operate several hospitals.

1939: Dr. J.A. Chatman arrives in Lubbock, the town’s first African-American physician.

June 7, 1939: Sister Inez Valdez and Sister Clement Vail arrive in Lubbock by train.

July 15, 1939: Purchase of Plains Hospital and Clinic from Doctors Arnett, Key and Malone completed for \$57,901.26.

Early 1940s

1940: Plains Hospital and Clinic renamed St. Mary of the Plains Hospital. The clinic remains Plains Clinic, managed by the doctors. The staffs and equipment of the clinic and hospital are now officially separated.

Feb. 25, 1940: Formal dedication of the new \$85,000 Plains Clinic and blessing of the renovated St. Mary of the Plains Hospital takes place with approximately 1,000 people attending the ceremonies.

1940: Segregation of patients of color was a “condition of the times,” according to a history of St. Mary of the Plains, but the Sisters feel all people have an equal right to care. A cottage behind the convent used for storage is converted into “Ward of Our Lady of Divine Providence” for their care.

1941: Lubbock Sanitarium changes name to Lubbock General Hospital. Dr. J.T. Krueger and other staff members believe the name is more representative of the different medical treatment available.

1941: Lubbock General Hospital adds a \$90,000 clinic building and remodels part of the original structure. Both are air-conditioned.

Serving Covenant Health and its predecessors has been a family affair

Marion Key served so long on the Lubbock Methodist Hospital Board his son Roger eventually joined him.

“I figured it up one time,” said Roger, saying it was close to 60 years of board service for father and son.

They were not the only Key family members involved with Covenant Health and its predecessors, and not the only family involved over multiple generations.

Numerous families have served on boards, as caregivers and more during Covenant Health’s 100-year history.

When Lauren Hill was asked to join the Joe Arrington Cancer Research and Treatment Center Development Council, she said yes to serve the facility named for her grandfather, a cardiologist at Methodist Hospital and later St. Mary of the Plains Hospital.

“It’s important to our family to always stay connected to the JACC not only in honor of what it does, but what Joe did as a physician who cared about his patients and the hospital. We want to carry on his legacy and stay involved.”

Lauren’s mom, Darla Croom, serves on Covenant’s Centennial Committee and its Parent Advisory Board.

Darla’s husband Brad has served on the old JACC Foundation Board and Lauren’s husband Chad Hill serves on the Covenant Foundation Board.

“It’s good to see our kids involved, because we all love Lubbock,” said



The Arrington/Croom/Hill family has three generations of service to Covenant Health and its predecessors as well. **Back Row:** Lauren Hill, Brad Croom, Chad Hill. **Front Row:** Darla Croom, Barbara Arrington, Shelly Biggs (JACC director).

About This Page

This is the second of 13 monthly pages celebrating Covenant Health’s 100th anniversary. Each month we’ll highlight a specific piece of our history, along with a quiz and timeline of important dates. Information for this page was gleaned from the Covenant Health Archives and the books “The First Sixty-Two Years: A History of Methodist Hospital,” “St. Mary of the Plains Hospital: Our First 50 Years” and “He Wore A Pink Carnation: A Biography of Dr. M.C. Overton.”

Visit our centennial website to see videos about our history covenant100.org

Be involved

You can share your stories on our website and we would love to be gifted or borrow your mementos from Covenant, St. Mary of the Plains Hospital, Methodist Hospital, Plains Hospital and Clinic, Lubbock Memorial Hospital, nursing schools or the Lubbock Sanitarium and Clinic. If you have questions about items, please contact Covenant Health Foundation office at (806) 725-6089.

Barbara Arrington, Joe’s widow. “That’s what the Keys are doing it for.”

The Keys have also been involved for three generations starting with dad Marion.

- Roger served on the Methodist and Covenant boards and was involved in the merger that created Covenant Health.

- His brother Charles: Chair of the Lubbock Methodist Hospital Systems Board and served on

the Methodist and Covenant Foundation boards.

- His wife Paula: Hospice of Lubbock Board.
- Their son Chase: Covenant Foundation Board.

- Their daughter Carolyn: The former Covenant candy striper is on the Lubbock Methodist Hospital System Board.

- Their cousin Melissa Key Pierce: Covenant’s Centennial Strategic Project Manager.

Then there’s Danny and Pat Johnston, who between both sides of their marriage have five generations of service.

Danny’s grandfather Neil H. Wright Sr., his dad Joe Bob Johnston and Danny all served on the Methodist Hospital Board and Danny was heavily involved in the merger.

Pat’s grandfather C.H. “Brownie” Hamilton and her dad, Owen Hamilton, also served on the Methodist Board.

David Alderson’s grandfather Walter and uncle Gene served on the Methodist/Covenant Health board.

When David was approached recently to help with the Keeping the Covenant campaign saying yes “was an easy thing to do.”

Four families. Fourteen generations.

When Roger Key was 15 years old, he got a job in the stock room at Methodist Hospital “for the princely sum of \$1.25 an hour.”

“I saw things I would have never gotten to see for a 15-year-old,” he said.

Danny Johnston’s first memory of Methodist was when he woke up there two days after a concussion when he brother flipped him head first on a concrete floor.

Roughly three decades later he was asked to serve on the Methodist Board.

“I was shocked, incredibly honored and surprised. I didn’t feel worthy because that board was for distinguished citizens of the community — for people above me,” he said. “Little did I know I’d spend almost 20 years on the board.”

David Alderson was born at Methodist Hospital and remembers watching his dad play tennis against Dr. Robert Salem.

“He is a prince of a gentleman. Whenever we had a family member sick in the hospital, Dr. Salem was the first one there — like he was taking care of his own father,” said David.

- Renovation of the first-floor of Plains Clinic into patient rooms in 1940 was done by which contractor, whose family a Lubbock park was later named after.**
 - Huneke
 - Maedgen
 - Rushing
 - Maxey
- General Hospital Pharmacy opens in 1941, a coordinated service of Lubbock General Hospital. In its first year it filled how many prescriptions?**
 - Less than 5,000
 - 5,000 - 7,500
 - 7,500 - 10,000
 - More than 10,000

ANSWERS

- a — Dr. Robert McCarthy, who was in internal medicine and later cardiology.
- c — \$2. When two editions were sold out, Dr. Overton declined to publish another edition. People as far away as Russia and New Zealand used the book.
- b — The first air-conditioned facility in Lubbock.
- d — Robert Maxey, was the developer, Maxey Park at Quaker Avenue and 24th Street was named for his family.
- c — 8,867 prescriptions were filled.

Keeping the Covenant

Stay-up-to-date on our \$450 million investment in health care on the South Plains and learn how you can help at keepingthecovenant.org

Questions about donating? (806) 725-6089