



*Oct. 2000 - Dr. Dan Bacon, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Kerrville Veterans Hospital*

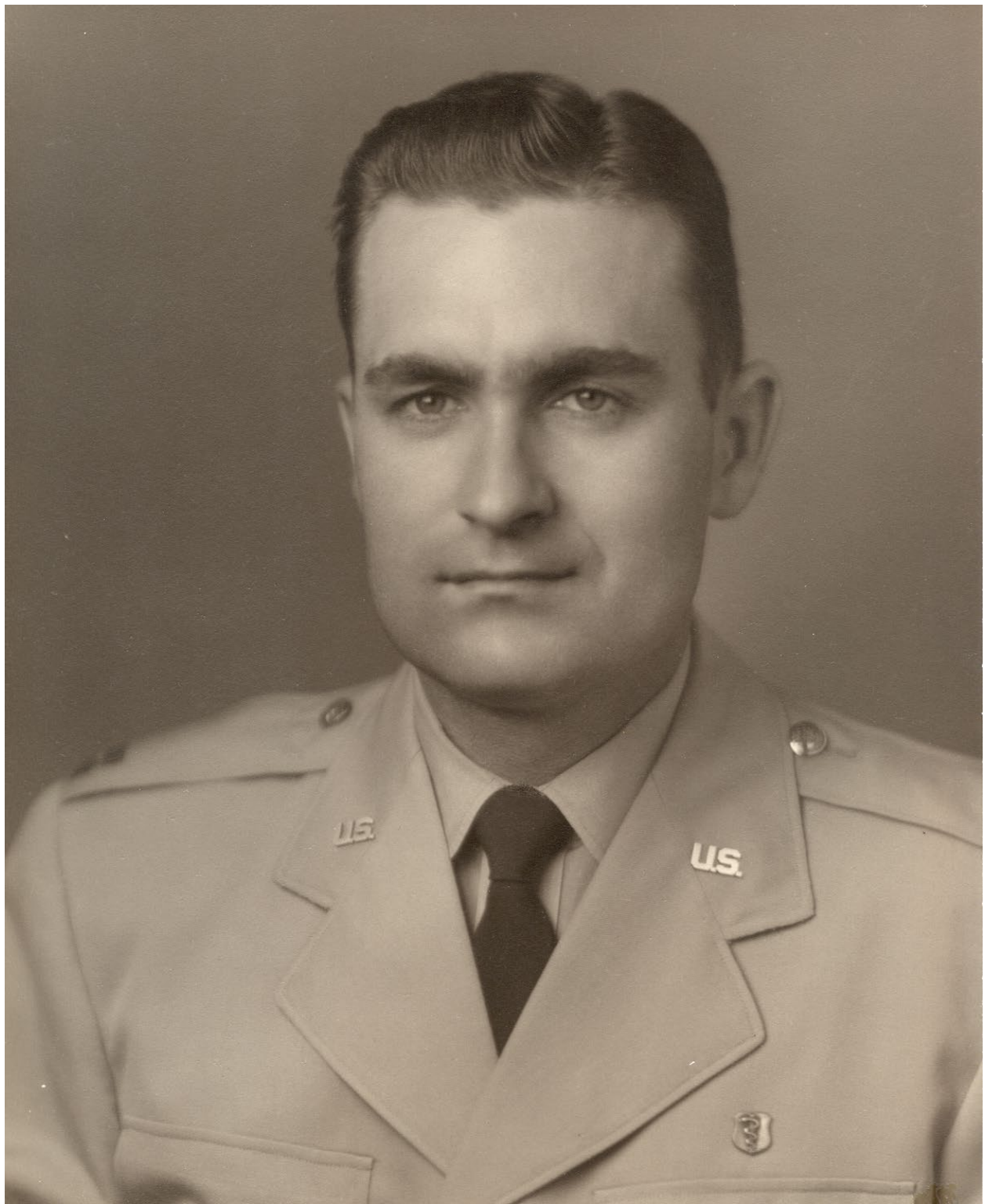
Name: Dan Wallace Bacon, M.D.

Date of Birth: December 17, 1930

Place of Birth: Childress, Texas

Education: High School – Alice, Texas
Texas A&M – Kingsville, Texas
U. of Texas Medical Branch at
Galveston

Occupation: Family Practice Physician
Chief Medical Officer,
Veteran’s Hospital—
Kerrville, Texas



Dr. Dan Bacon in the Air Force, 1958

C:\My Documents\Pictures - Word Format
File: Bacon, Dr. Dan - Air Force, 1958



1952 - Georgia Alice Bacon, about 4 months, with mother, Alice Ann Tidwell Bacon.



Joseph Driver Bacon, brother of Dr. Dan Bacon

C:\My Documents\Pictures – Word Format
File: Bacon, Dr. Dan – Dan’s Brother, Joseph Bacon



Clinic in LaPaz, Bolivia, where Dr. Dan Bacon worked as a visiting physician in 1965.



One of the many children who received care in the clinic in Bolivia where Dr. Dan Bacon worked.



Dr. Dan Bacon, right, with sons, Rodney, left, and Bill-1979.

C:\My Documents\Pictures - Word Format
File: Bacon, Dr. Dan - Dan with Sons, Rodney & Bill, 1979



*Dr. Dan Bacon shown here in 1987 with the Guadalupe River Jazz Band.
Members (l to r), Dan, John Marmor, Clark Hattier, Vern Hatch,
Mike Anthony, B.T. Wilson and Ted Connerly.*



Dan Bacon (left trombone) is shown here as a member of the marching band at Texas A&I University – Kingsville, (now Texas A&M), ca 1950.

The week of
June 13-19

MUSIC WILL FLOW FREELY AT

JAZZ on the GUADALUPE

e...

acific' continues
nt Theatre ...
3 for details.

time in the Hill
nd Stonewall
o celebrate with
ee and rodeo ...
2 for info.



The Band Aid Jazz Band performs on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. The foursome will take part in the Jazz on the Guadalupe concert in Ingram.

A free Father's Day concert will feature three jazz bands at the Smith-Ritch Point Theatre, located on the banks of the Guadalupe River. See page 3 for details.

Kerrville Daily Times "Applause" Cover – June 13, 1999

The Band Aid Jazz Band shown above in New Orleans, performed at countless community benefits throughout Kerr County and the surrounding area, says Dr. Dan Bacon (on the trombone at the right). Dan has also played with the Sentimental Journey orchestra and other area band and performs often in San Antonio for various events.

Free clinics offer health options for less fortunate

By Bonnie Arnold
Staff Reporter

One free medical clinic exists in Kerrville, and another is about to open.

The Salvation Army clinic has been up and running for three decades. The Raphael Community Free Clinic plans to open Aug. 7 in the old Notre Dame church building. Both offer help for people with non-emergency medical needs.

The Salvation Army clinics staffed almost totally by volunteers and open one day per week (as the Raphael clinic will be), with the Salvation Army Clinic offering dental as well as medical help.

Salvation Army

"There's been a clinic in Kerrville for 30 years, this October," said office manager Sondra Swyers.

"Our work here really started with the clinic. It was the first and still possibly is the only free Salvation Army Clinic in the U.S."

The clinic was organized by Dr. Dan Bacon, who still practices medicine here, now at the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

The Salvation Army Clinic has one volunteer who has been helping there all 30 years, Swyers said, (anonymous by choice). Different pediatricians, regular doctors and dentists come each week on their lunch

hours as volunteers.

The clinic opens Wednesdays at 9 a.m. for patient registration. Before the doctors arrive, around lunch time, volunteers do X-rays, blood pressure checks, prescription refills and other preliminary work.

The dentists see five patients a day, with clinic volunteers taking histories and X-rays before the dentist arrives.

"I set up; he pulls," one volunteer said, adding they do a few fillings and temporary fillings too.

Enough local dentists volunteer that they rotate through a weekly schedule once every 9-13 weeks.

They have no restrictions on who may receive care, and the registration form is very simple, asking basic information such as name, address, telephone number, age and complaint. Income or ability to pay are not major concerns.

There is a donation jar on the registration table, and any money given is used to buy clinic supplies.

The clinic includes a small pharmacy, stocked with donations from area doctors' offices and dispensed for free on doctors' orders.

In addition to the volunteers like Lilia Castillo at the registration table (another 30-year "veteran") the Salvation Army

staff includes one case worker, one bookkeeper, two Transient Lodge workers, and a high school youth working as a receptionist for the summer under the Job Training Partnership Act program.

Castillo acts as translator for non-English-speaking patients when needed.

Swyers said in the beginning they saw three times as many children as they do now, when they offered immunizations and physicals for school. Now it's primarily adults, up to 40 per Wednesday, and, most of those come for medication refills.

About 15 people usually stay to see the doctors on any Wednesday.

Raphael Clinic

When a Catholic nun who is a family nurse practitioner gets together with a social services director from a local hospital, marvelous things begin to happen.

Sister Marge Novak, a Franciscan nun, aided by Patsy Hodges, conducted a needs survey of a cross-section of Kerrville area residents. Results showed 60 percent of those responding to the five-page questionnaire were low-income and under- or uninsured for medical care.

So the Raphael (meaning "God heals") Community Free

Clinic came to be. It opens Thursday, Aug. 7, in donated space at the old Notre Dame Catholic Church sanctuary, now the multi-use Kemper Hall.

"In May, 1996, I went to the church and said, 'Just give me a room with a desk and a chair,' and it grew from there," Sister Marge said.

The staff is all-volunteer, beginning with the Knights of Columbus and Habitat for Humanity members who are making the mobile, portable partitions and other furniture for the clinic space. It has to be taken down and put away Thursday evenings for school and church use of the hall.

Initially the clinic will be open 5 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays and will include volunteer doctors, four medical technicians, three pharmacists, an in-house pharmacy and a counseling service.

Some lab work can be done at the clinic and some at the Guadalupe Physicians Group lab, she said.

Available services are expected to include acute and chronic medical examinations and treatments; pregnancy testing; prenatal care; pap smears; counseling for depression, tension and stress; counseling for child abuse with referral; assessment and counseling for domestic violence with referral; and immunizations and health education.

The evening hours lessen patients' absences from school or work, Sister Marge said.

Their survey showed of the more than 38,000

people in Kerr County, an estimate 9,740 are uninsured or under-insured. Many are working but still have no health insurance.

Kemper Hall is located at the corner of Main and Washington Streets. For information, call Sister Marge at 896-4711 weekdays where she is nurse practitioner with Family Practice Associates or the Notre Dame church

Friedman and friends



Photo by Jacquie Bovée

Stopping for a quick break after Friday night's show are, from left, melodica and kazoo player Little Jewford Shelby, cigar-smoking performer Kinky Friedman, Band-Aid Jazz Band trombonist Dan Bacon and pianist/composer

Ridge Floyd. Friedman headlined the fund-raising event for the Arcadia. Other performers joining in the effort were singer/songwriter Billy Joe Shaver and violinist Sweet Mary Hattersley.

Dr. Dan Bacon (second from right) takes a break from performing at a fund raising event for the restoration of the Arcadia Theater. Dr. Bacon served a chairman of the Arcadia Theater group.

Bacon honored by AAFP

KERRVILLE — Dr. Dan W. Bacon, a family physician from Kerrville, was honored recently for 35 years of membership in the American Academy of Family Physicians.

AAFP is the national medical association representing more than 83,000 family physicians, family practice residents and medical students. Family physicians are medical specialists trained to treat a majority of medical problems for all members a the family from newborns to the elderly.

Roth achieves fellowship

KERRVILLE — Dr. Georgia White Roth, of Kerrville, has received the degree of Fellow of the American Academy Of Family Physicians.

The degree was awarded to approximately 500 family physicians on Oct. 5 in conjunction with AAFP's 48th Annual Scientific Assembly in New Orleans, La.

The degree of fellowship recognizes family physicians who have distinguished themselves among their colleagues and in their communities through service to family medicine and professional development.

Local orchestra rekindles days of Cotton Club

By Jacquie Bovee

Special to the Daily Times

INGRAM — Sentimental Journey Orchestra's leader, Ted Conerly, opens The Point Theatre's production of "Live at the Cotton Club" deliciously tickling the ivories with Billy Strayhorn's "Lotus Blossom." Strayhorn wrote many tunes for and with Duke Ellington. Strayhorn's version of "Take the A Train," an Ellington hit, is just one of the 22 musical numbers featured in the show.

Douglas Balentine, Point musical director, sets the New York Harlem Cotton Club scene with his perfect voice over, describing the swinging era, the great composers and

wonderful black talents of the day. Musical greats Louis Armstrong, Lena Horne, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Fats Waller, Art Tatum and the likes played the club from the early 20s to the late 40s. "Live at the Cotton Club" honors them and their contemporaries. With a 21-piece band and six vocalists the performance really moves.

Balentine is the master of ceremonies — stepping into character, introducing the numbers — send the audience back in time to the swinging era. If you don't see Balentine's charming version of Cab Calloway's "Minnie the



Susan Balentine on stage during the Point Theatre's production "Live at the Cotton Club," recently. The production continues Sept. 19-21 at the Hill Country Arts Foundation in Ingram. (Courtesy photo)

Moocher" you are really missing something.

Susan Balentine not only delivers a fabulous rendition of "I Got it Bad (And That Ain't Good)," but she also acts, moves and looks like she is at the Cotton Club. Her believable performance of the Lena Horne hit "Stormy Weather," is a show stopper.

Saxophonist and clarinet player extraordinaire Phil Armstrong is marvelous per-

forming Fats Waller's 1929 hit "Ain't Misbehaven," and vocalist Caren Harris really belts out the tune "I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Baby." Trombone player Dan Bacon, in his dark sunshades, wows the crowd during the song "Saint James Infirmary Blues" and Denny Hatch's saxophone is heart rendering on "Mood Indigo." Vern Hatch plays a mean trumpet while Bob Black on guitar, Gary

Hatch on bass and Jeff Ballard on percussion do a great job. The swinging horns on "One O'Clock Jump," bring back the visual joy of Glen Miller.

The musical group number on "Honeysuckle Rose," really worked while recruiting dancers from the audience didn't. The old time mirrored reflecting globe didn't whirl and dance the way I remembered it and it should have.

Dr. Dan Bacon (on trombone) performs in "Live at the Cotton Club."

entertainment

Point Theatre enthralled all with "Sentimental Journey"

By Evans Johnson

Sun Entertainment Writer

The tranquil atmosphere beside the Guadalupe in Ingram is shattered joyfully Thursday-Sunday evenings this week as the Sentimental Journey Orchestra returns to the Point Stage with "Live at the Paramount: An Evening with the Big Bands."

Ted Conerly's band, which wowed audiences last summer at the Point, is in finer form this year. Their review of the best of the big band era is split into music from "The Golden Age of the Big Bands" and "Big Bands Go To War." Doug Balentine also returns as the emcee and colorful historian.

Marvelously smooth clarinet and saxophone player Phil Armstrong teases passion out of his licorice stick on "Begin the Beguine." He, however, is trumped by Susan Balentine's light version of "S'Wonderful" and her throaty renditions of "Over the Rainbow" and "Stormy Weather."

Balentine is joined as "The Andrews Sisters" by Laura Freeman and Elizabeth Hodges for "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." Hodges solos lyrically during Duke Ellington's "In a Sentimental Mood" and Tommy Dorsey's "Opus One" and "I'll Be Seeing You."

All together, the Sentimental Journey Orchestra rips, soars and lilt through nearly 30 numbers, mostly instrumentals, from such other greats as Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Count Basie, Louis Armstrong, Jack Teagarden, Woody Herman and Stan Kenton.

The band has pumped ample new life into the Hill Country's music scene with their accent on smooth excellence. They're only out there for these four more evenings, and everyone anywhere who delights in this music should race their roadsters to Ingram.

For ticket and time information, phone the Point box office at 367-5122.



Photo courtesy of Hill Country Arts Foundation

THE SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY ORCHESTRA under the direction of Ted Conerly will continue its presentation of "Live at the Paramount: An Evening with the Big Bands" through Sunday at the Point Theatre in Ingram. Call 367-5122 for more information or ticket reservations.

Dr. Dan Bacon (left, back row) poses with members of the Sentimental Journey Orchestra.



Working on the Tricare/Champus-VA agreement are, seated from left, Vicki Goebel, provider development foundation health; Dan W. Bacon, chief medical officer, Kerrville Division; Tommy Mayes, field coordination manager, foundation health; Judy Terry, health care finder, utilization management; and standing, from left, Louise Parker, sharing agreements health system specialist; Jerry Henwood, ambulatory care manager, KD; Larry Meschkat, chief medical administration service, Audie L. Murphy Division and Ruben Balle, administrative division, KD. (Courtesy photo)

Tricare/CHAMPUS retirees, beneficiaries eligible for care at VA

A contract between the Kerrville Division of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System and Foundation Health Corporation Affiliates will allow the VA medical center to serve as a health care provider to Tricare/Champus military retirees and family members in the Kerrville service area.

Comprehensive services including primary care, outpatient surgery, women's health and most diagnostics will be provided at the Kerrville VA Medical Center beginning Feb. 18.

In those instances where diagnostics cannot be provided at Kerrville, the patient will be transported to the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio or be referred to the private medical community in Kerrville.

"This opens a new chapter in resource sharing," said Dan Bacon, M.D., chief medical officer. Revenue generated from this contract will be utilized to increase services to veterans such as orthopedics and neurology."

Established primary care teams will accommodate the additional workload that Tricare/Champus will generate without compromising veteran patient care, he said. These improvements of services will not result in the denial of, or delay in, providing access to care to eligible veterans.

Tricare/Champus is designed to expand access to care, maintain quality of care, control medical costs for patients and taxpayers alike, and improve medical readiness. Military retirees under the age of 65 and their beneficiaries over the age of 18 and under 65 may enroll.

"The benefits for both Tricare/Champus beneficiaries and veterans are numerous," said Ruben Balle, administrative officer. "Military retirees and their beneficiaries will not have to travel long distances for care and our veterans will continue to receive quality care."

For more information, contact Medical Administration Service at (910) 799-2424/2515.

VA changes are part of restructuring of whole system

By Melissa Rentería
Times Staff Writer

Officials with the health care system that oversees Kerrville VA medical center say recent changes within the network are part of a multi-phased restructuring of the entire Veterans Health Administration.

Four years ago the future and viability of VA health care was questioned and many expressed concern over the VA's lack of response to "changes in health care and society."

In September 1994, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee called for "a dramatic change" in VA health care to accommodate what were termed national changes in the health care industry.

"In the past, the veterans health care system was too insular, too introspective and too isolated. In today's rapidly changing

world, isolation is a prescription for doom," said a South Texas Veterans Health Care System spokesman.

In an effort to reduce costs and avoid hospital closings, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown integrated the Kerrville and San Antonio VA medical centers in 1995.

Veterans who used the Kerrville VA medical center began to see the effects of the integration.

"We were told this merger would make health care services better for all veterans but that is certainly not the case," said Bill Bacon, a retired Air Force general and president of the Hill Country Veterans Council, a group of veterans organized to save, and restore, health care services at the Kerrville VA medical center.

Since the merger, there has been a regu-

lar decline in the services offered at the Kerrville facility, Bacon said.

The Kerrville and San Antonio VA medical centers, five satellite clinics and eight community-based clinics comprise the STVHCS, which serves more than 300,000 veterans in a 62-county radius. The network is headquartered at Audie L. Murphy Memorial Hospital in San Antonio.

Changes with other Texas VA medical facilities include the 1995 integration of the Waco, Marlin and Temple VA medical centers to form the Central Texas Health Care System. And in 1996, the Dallas VA Medical Center, the Fort Worth Outpatient Clinic and the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center integrated to form the VA North Texas Health Care System.

See VA, 8A

VA Continued from Page 1A

"Kerrville is not isolated and the South Texas Veterans Health Care System and VA are not isolated (in its changes)," Struski said. "National health care has changed."

The primary goal of the integrations was "to enhance the quality of care for veterans while conserving limited resources," according to VA officials. With the integrations, "the enhancement of health care services was made possible by sharing resources in an efficient, cost effective health care delivery system under one leadership structure."

These integrations were part of Phase One of the VHA restructuring that also included eliminating programs that were no longer needed.

Phase Two, which began in 1996 and continued through 1998, is best characterized by the shift from inpatient care to outpatient care.

The VHA entered Phase Three of its restructuring at the end of 1998.

During Phase Three, "the many new ways of doing business are becoming fully operationalized and refined" compared to earlier experiences with them, Struski said.

Phase Three will see continued changes but they are expected to be "less intense" as Phase Two changes.

Bacon questions the changes made that resulted in the transfer of services from the Kerrville VA medical center to Audie Murphy.

"Why would anyone cut up a quality care health care facility that was ranked the highest of all Texas-based veterans hospitals and care facilities in the 1997 National Ambulatory Care survey report?" he asked. "Evidently, VA hospital administrators are not concerned with providing quality care to veterans."

Veterans hospital has served since 1923

Hundreds of discharged veterans returning to Texas at the end of World War I in 1919 were suffering from acute tuberculosis and other diseases. In the larger cities, veterans in the last stages of tuberculosis were living in tents, without funds, and with no medical care.

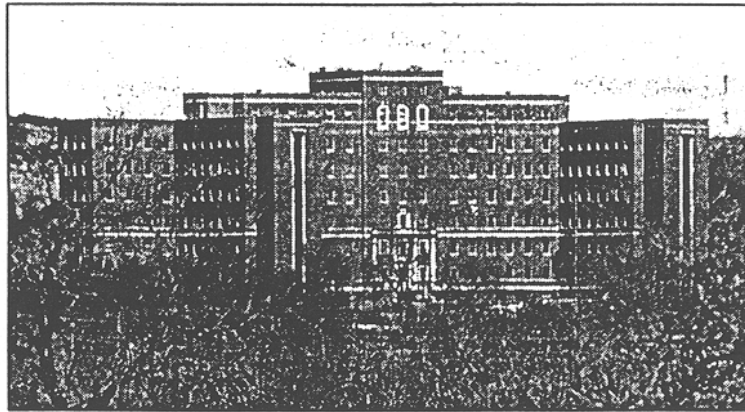
Spurred on by this emergency, in November 1919, a group of Kerr County citizens, with the aid of the Benevolent War Risk Society founded by Texas Governor W. B. Hobby, American Legion State Commander Claude Birkhead and Texas State Health Officer Dr. Collins launched a drive for \$500,000 to construct a hospital in Kerrville for the care of World War I veterans.

On April 20, 1920, a site consisting of 790 acres was donated by Louis and A. C. Schreiner to the society. With the aid of this generous donation, construction of the American Legion Tuberculosis Hospital began that same year.

Before construction was completed, the society's funds became depleted and the project was sold to the American Legion, Department of Texas, on Jan. 14, 1921, for \$1. At this time, the name "Legion" was given to the hospital, a name which many Texans still call the facility today.

With funds depleted, the project may well have ended at that point had it not been for the combined efforts of the American Legion, the Daughters of the Confederacy, and State Senator Julius Real. In exchange for the deed of the project to the State of Texas, Real persuaded the Texas Legislature to appropriate \$1.5 million to continue construction of the 600-bed hospital to be called the American Legion Memorial Hospital.

In the spring of 1923, a committee of three consisting of American Legion Commander John Townes, State Senator Woodville Rogers and the chairman of the State Board of



South Texas Veterans Health Care System-Kerrville Division is the name of the reorganized former Kerrville Veterans Administration Medical Center. (Times photo)

Control journeyed to Washington, D.C., and made arrangements with the U.S. Veterans Bureau to lease the hospital.

On May 4, 1923, the completed facility containing 15 buildings was leased by the U.S. Veterans Bureau from the Texas State Board of Control. Many of the original 15 buildings are still used today.

On July 1, 1923, the Veterans Bureau opened the doors of the buildings to the first patient, and the 93rd hospital in the nation dedicated to the care of veterans was operational. On Dec. 31, 1925, the Veterans Bureau purchased the facility from Texas for \$1.182 million.

By order of President Herbert on July 21, 1930, the Veterans Administration was created and the facility operated under that name. With the elevation to cabinet level on March 15, 1989, the hospital is now operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The present medical center stands on 70 acres, which includes a 1.7-acre VA National Cemetery. Of the original 790 acre tract, 678 acres have been donated back to the community by the VA. Some of the more meaningful transactions have included: 500 acres to the Texas Lions League, for Crippled Children's Home; 116 acres for the Texas Hill Country

Development Foundation; 72 acres to the Kerrville Independent School District and 32 acres for various local and state transactions.

On Dec. 19, 1947, the main hospital building in use today was dedicated.

The Kerrville VA Medical Center has been a major provider of health care for South Texas for many years. With the addition of the new 120-bed nursing home care unit dedicated on Dec. 5, 1984, the center expanded its services to veterans. The current bed distribution includes 90 medical, 15 surgical, 8 rehabilitation medicine, 17 alcohol and drug dependent

unit, 61 intermediate, and 154 nursing home care beds.

The former medical center director, Arnold E. Mouish, did oversee the modernization and refurbishing of the main hospital as well as several of the original 15 structures. With the aid of then-chief of staff, Dr. Dan W. Bacon, and associate director, Julie A. Catellier, the medical center and its staff have progressed to providing exemplary care, as evidenced by the center's patient satisfaction surveys.

On March 15, 1995, Kerrville VAMC and the Audie L. Murphy VAMC merged to form the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. The system consists of the Audie L. Murphy Division, Kerrville Division, and the Outpatient Clinic Division (San Antonio, Victoria, Corpus Christi, Laredo, McAllen, and South Bexar County). Jose R. Coronado is now the chief executive officer of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System.

The Kerrville Division currently employs a staff of 530. There are 250 active, dedicated volunteers who contribute 30,000 hours annually.

The medical center we have today would not have been possible without the vision and dedication of the American Legion and early Kerrville leaders.

APRIL, 1996



Dr. Dan Bacon – 1970



*Dr. Dan Bacon plays his trombone on the Riverwalk
in San Antonio, ca. 1980.*

The Way It Was – July 3, 1949

In 1944 Hal and Charlie Peterson formed their Foundation for the purpose of building and supporting a hospital for the people of Kerr County. There wasn't enough money in the beginning to get it done – it took five years and a series of Foundation business ventures to gather.

The Kerrville Bus Company was then and still is a major source of income for both the Foundation and the hospital. Another source that's come and gone was the 60-car tire test fleet for Goodrich. For 21 years the fleet ran three eight-hour shifts each day, on a contract that allowed either party to cancel with 30-days' notice.

The first contribution, of \$100, to the Foundation was made by Hal, whose dream of a hospital was a

long time coming. "Boss" was what would be described in modern times as a mover and a shaker, a ball of fire. Charlie was more the quiet type, easy-going. Both men suffered serious medical problems of their own for many years.

Construction began in 1947, and on July 3, 1949 Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital officially opened its doors to a 55-bed, one million dollar health care center.

About 4000 people attended the grand opening, where Rev. William M. Logan, a

Presbyterian minister, gave the address. "An institution is but the lengthened shadow of a man," he told the crowd, referring to the much-loved Sid Peterson, in whose memory the hospital was built.

The event made *Time* magazine. Boss and Charlie decided

that a hospital should have some source of income other than its patients. SPMH's 11-pump Humble gasoline station, and three of the six floors of office space rented at 20 cents a square foot, fascinated the media.

The Kerrville Bus Company operated on the second floor, the 14 doctors took the third floor, other tenants included an attorney, a beauty parlor, a dress shop, and a Good Year store.

The full-service gas station officially opened the next day, July 4. With each opening of a Humble station, the new station was challenged to set a Texas record in gas sales. Hill County folks rallied round to buy 9,000 gallons, many people topping off their tanks four to five times during the day.



The Kerrville Bus Company's first fleet, Buick sedans bought in 1929 in Loudenneele, Ohio. Below, Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital in 1949, housing the Humble Service Station that drew attention from all over the United States.



After 35 Years . . .

The Way It Is – October, 1984

Dr. D.E. Packard, Dr. C.C. Jones and Dr. C.B. Matthews came with the hospital. They started out listening and loving, and the era continues. Dr. Harry Claypool will soon retire from full-time practice, leaving Dr. Dan Bacon as the senior

doctor practicing full time. With a team of 48, new doctors frequently applying for practices are sometimes discouraged. Recruiting good doctors has never been an expense for SPMH.



THE SPMH MEDICAL STAFF – First Row (left to right): Doctors William C. Byrd, Charles C. Jones Jr., Dan W. Bacon, Earl H. Kilgore, Clarence W. Donald, John D. Davis, D.J. Priour, Theodore R. Boyce and Barney K. Williams. Second Row: Doctors James L. Graham, Larry R. Taylor, Earl Merritt, John R. Schwarzenbach, Charles E. Lewis, Michael Martin, Fred L. Speck Jr., J.D. Wells, Lary H. Priour, William T. Newsom, George Shuster III, Larry Adams, Randolph C. Zuber, Philip R. Webb, Theron C. Hawkins, Dee G. McCrary Jr., Charles C. Brown,

Harold F. Bradley, Carlos A. Guerra, William Rector, C.L. Vernor, Alex M. Rosenblum, John J. Burditt, Joseph H. Luna, Y.C. Smith, William M. Allen Jr.

Third Row: Doctors Roger Moblad, Rex E. Thomas, R. Gordon Delaney, Robert G. Bowers Jr., David M. O'Dell, Edwin M. McGill, Joseph F. Vinas, Gregory McKenzie, William E. Morris Jr., Hinchey, McBurney. Not included are W.E. Morris Sr., S.E. Johnson, W.C. O'Donnell, T.B. Samsel, M.N. Wall, Harry Claypool, Richard F. Montgomery.

The Way It Will Be

The new annex to Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital will have four floors. The first floor will be an open drive-through, effectively routing emergency room traffic and providing space for mechanical rooms. The second floor will house the new operating room suite, including a recovery room with 12 beds, six operating rooms and a new Sterile Central Supply. The third floor will add 44 additional beds, with both private

and semi-private rooms. The fourth floor will remain a shell for future expansion of another 44 beds, and is built so that two more stories can be added at a later date.

Renovation on the existing structure will provide the space for a larger OB, and a new enlarged ICU. The project will be completed in late 1985 or early 1986.



*Dan Bacon, (l) joins fellow singers at Texas A&I University – Kingsville,
(now Texas A&M), ca. 1950.*



*April 1980: Dr. Dan Bacon performing surgery at Sid Peterson Hospital—
one of the many he performed in his more than 40 years as a physician in
Kerrville.*

MEDICINE

Polio Time

As the infantile paralysis season advances, public health officials are keeping a sharp watch on the weekly reports of new cases. Since the third week of March, low point in the "polio year," 1949 has looked slightly worse than the epidemic year of 1948—2,273 cases *v.* 2,020.* But the experts are not yet alarmed: although more new cases are being reported each week (latest figure: 479), the rate of increase has dropped.

"Welfare Island"

How is the British National Health Service Act working out? Editor John W. McPherrin of the *American Druggist* (circ. 57,000) decided to see for himself.

In five weeks he traveled 1,600 miles around England, Scotland & Wales. Lugging a 28-lb. tape-recording machine, greying Editor McPherrin, 51, took down the opinions of Britons in pubs and chemists' shops. He lost ten of his 155 pounds, never paused for sightseeing, and brought back enough material to fill the whole July issue of his magazine. Net observation: the Health Act, which went into effect just a year ago, is popular with most Britons but is bad for them. Britain, McPherrin concluded, has become "Welfare Island."

* The worst local epidemic is in Texas, with 715 cases since mid-March and new ones still being reported at a rate of more than 100 a week.



EDITOR MCPHERRIN (SECOND FROM RIGHT) & BRITONS

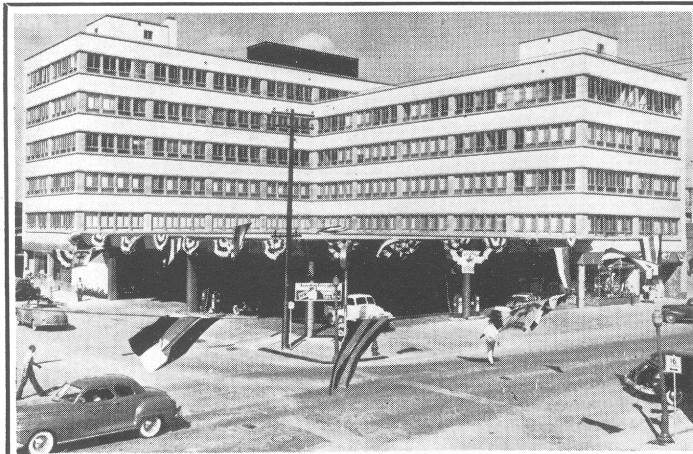
The effect is depressing.

It is too early to tell what the plan has done for British health, but in an editorial called "The State Is My Shepherd" McPherrin says that there are "definite signs that it has done something to their faith in themselves." If the U.S. should ever adopt the same kind of a scheme, "we must be prepared to accept the same increases in taxes and government controls. But of much greater significance is the depressing effect upon the spirit of the people. Britons want security, but we do not think they have found it . . . To the extent that any man accepts the doctrine

that the State alone can bring him security and happiness, he will lose faith in himself."

British workers are just beginning to get uneasy about the health plan and the controls it brought, McPherrin says, but they are still for it. "When prodded into discussing the cost of the service to him as a taxpayer, the worker begins to realize that he does not know much about the cost and this fact worries him . . . But he is not ready to turn against the health scheme. Even if he were, there is no place for him to turn."

There is one point on which McPherrin agrees with Health Minister Aneurin ("Nye") Bevan, with whom he talked. To work effectively, such a government health plan needs "complete centralized control." Concludes McPherrin: "I don't think many Americans would be willing to grant that much control because they are not used to that type of government."



Wheelus

PATIENTS, PUMPS & PROTECTION

This is the Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital at Kerrville, Tex. (pop. 10,000), dedicated last week during the town's annual rodeo. Its outstanding feature: built-in protection against deficits. Hal and Charlie Peterson, rancher brothers who gave \$1,000,000 to build the 55-bed hospital in memory of their father, decided that a hospital ought to have some source of income other than its patients. Peterson Memorial has an eleven-pump gasoline station (*center*), and three floors of office space rented at 20¢ a sq. ft. (Tenants include an attorney and a beauty parlor.) The Peterson brothers figure that their commercial sidelines will net about \$2,500 a month—15% of the hospital's operating costs.

A Locketful of Mold

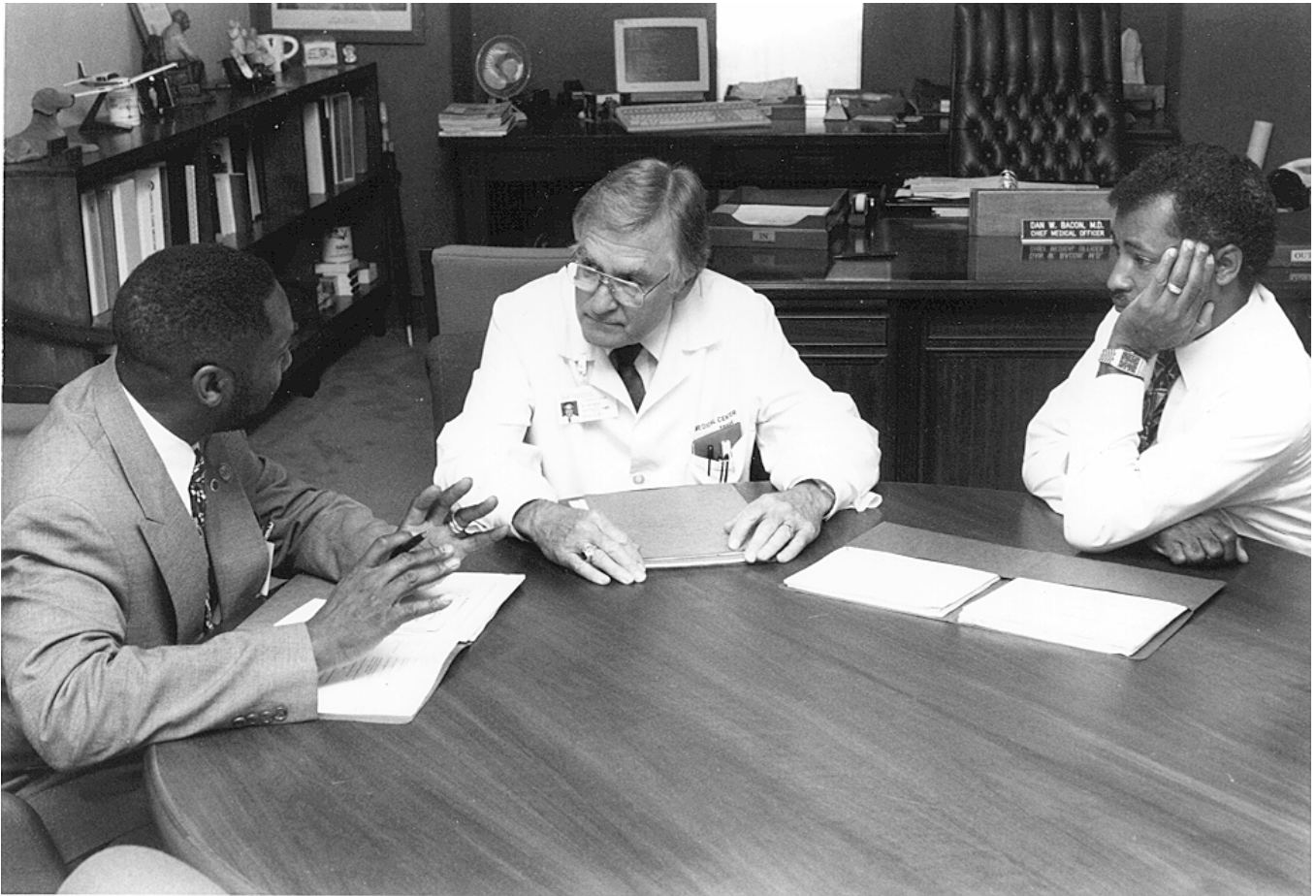
To dedicate the first building of their new Medical Research Foundation, Oklahomans wanted a big name. They picked Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, and sat back to wait for an answer to their invitation through diplomatic channels. After ten days, General Manager Hugh Payne got tired of waiting, picked up his telephone and called Fleming in London; it took four minutes (and cost \$8) to get Sir Alexander's acceptance.

Last week, with the temperature at 96°, the white-thatched Scot stood on a shaded platform in Oklahoma City, before 2,500 foundation supporters baking in the sun. Toward the foundation's goal of \$3,000,000, almost \$2,400,000 had been subscribed by 7,000 citizens. No donation exceeded \$26,000 (given by a Shawnee couple in memory of their son); one was only 35¢.

As he assured his audience that "the work done here may prove a thousand



1999: Dr. Dan Bacon



1999: Dr. Dan Bacon, (c) Chief Medical Officer at the Kerrville Veteran's Hospital confers with Chaplain Michael McCoy (l) and Chaplain Charles Edwards, Chief, Chaplain Service.

Veterans hospital has served since 1923

Hundreds of discharged veterans returning to Texas at the end of World War I in 1919 were suffering from acute tuberculosis and other diseases. In the larger cities, veterans in the last stages of tuberculosis were living in tents, without funds, and with no medical care.

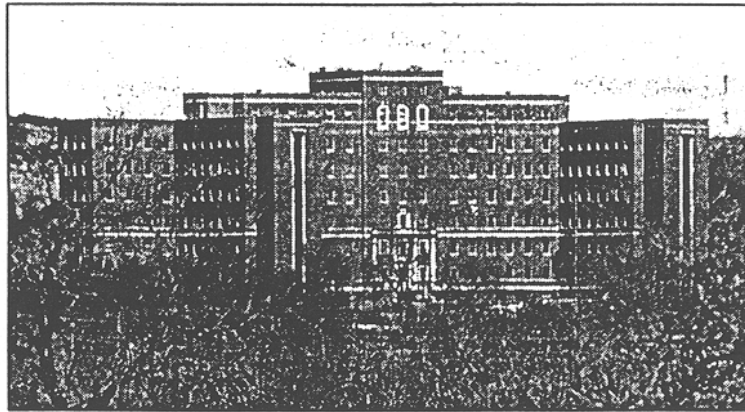
Spurred on by this emergency, in November 1919, a group of Kerr County citizens, with the aid of the Benevolent War Risk Society founded by Texas Governor W. B. Hobby, American Legion State Commander Claude Birkhead and Texas State Health Officer Dr. Collins launched a drive for \$500,000 to construct a hospital in Kerrville for the care of World War I veterans.

On April 20, 1920, a site consisting of 790 acres was donated by Louis and A. C. Schreiner to the society. With the aid of this generous donation, construction of the American Legion Tuberculosis Hospital began that same year.

Before construction was completed, the society's funds became depleted and the project was sold to the American Legion, Department of Texas, on Jan. 14, 1921, for \$1. At this time, the name "Legion" was given to the hospital, a name which many Texans still call the facility today.

With funds depleted, the project may well have ended at that point had it not been for the combined efforts of the American Legion, the Daughters of the Confederacy, and State Senator Julius Real. In exchange for the deed of the project to the State of Texas, Real persuaded the Texas Legislature to appropriate \$1.5 million to continue construction of the 600-bed hospital to be called the American Legion Memorial Hospital.

In the spring of 1923, a committee of three consisting of American Legion Commander John Townes, State Senator Woodville Rogers and the chairman of the State Board of



South Texas Veterans Health Care System-Kerrville Division is the name of the reorganized former Kerrville Veterans Administration Medical Center. (Times photo)

Control journeyed to Washington, D.C., and made arrangements with the U.S. Veterans Bureau to lease the hospital.

On May 4, 1923, the completed facility containing 15 buildings was leased by the U.S. Veterans Bureau from the Texas State Board of Control. Many of the original 15 buildings are still used today.

On July 1, 1923, the Veterans Bureau opened the doors of the buildings to the first patient, and the 93rd hospital in the nation dedicated to the care of veterans was operational. On Dec. 31, 1925, the Veterans Bureau purchased the facility from Texas for \$1.182 million.

By order of President Herbert on July 21, 1930, the Veterans Administration was created and the facility operated under that name. With the elevation to cabinet level on March 15, 1989, the hospital is now operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The present medical center stands on 70 acres, which includes a 1.7-acre VA National Cemetery. Of the original 790 acre tract, 678 acres have been donated back to the community by the VA. Some of the more meaningful transactions have included: 500 acres to the Texas Lions League, for Crippled Children's Home; 116 acres for the Texas Hill Country

Development Foundation; 72 acres to the Kerrville Independent School District and 32 acres for various local and state transactions.

On Dec. 19, 1947, the main hospital building in use today was dedicated.

The Kerrville VA Medical Center has been a major provider of health care for South Texas for many years. With the addition of the new 120-bed nursing home care unit dedicated on Dec. 5, 1984, the center expanded its services to veterans. The current bed distribution includes 90 medical, 15 surgical, 8 rehabilitation medicine, 17 alcohol and drug dependent

unit, 61 intermediate, and 154 nursing home care beds.

The former medical center director, Arnold E. Mouish, did oversee the modernization and refurbishing of the main hospital as well as several of the original 15 structures. With the aid of then-chief of staff, Dr. Dan W. Bacon, and associate director, Julie A. Catellier, the medical center and its staff have progressed to providing exemplary care, as evidenced by the center's patient satisfaction surveys.

On March 15, 1995, Kerrville VAMC and the Audie L. Murphy VAMC merged to form the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. The system consists of the Audie L. Murphy Division, Kerrville Division, and the Outpatient Clinic Division (San Antonio, Victoria, Corpus Christi, Laredo, McAllen, and South Bexar County). Jose R. Coronado is now the chief executive officer of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System.

The Kerrville Division currently employs a staff of 530. There are 250 active, dedicated volunteers who contribute 30,000 hours annually.

The medical center we have today would not have been possible without the vision and dedication of the American Legion and early Kerrville leaders.

APRIL, 1996



In this photo taken in the late '70s, Dr. Dan Bacon is shown with one of the many sets of twins he delivered in the Kerrville area.