

The front page of that issue was filled with articles extolling the dedication ceremonies, the parade from **Liberty Square** that opened them, and the many merits of the new facility. "It is a source of great gratification to hear the words of praise bestowed on the hospital by all, especially the physicians who have inspected. Dr. Bland of New York went so far as to say that it is the most up-to-date of any hospital he has seen, and all say that the equipment is the last word, and that the hospital is the finest of its size they were ever in."

Clayton's Band (21 pieces) provided the music for the parade and the dedication; between forty and fifty World War veterans were in the line of march, as were veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic (Civil War), local officials, clergy, fire apparatus and firemen, "an interesting and creditable display." Addresses during the dedication were by Hon. George R. Lunn, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York, Dr. George F. Wilklow, President of the *Hospital Medical Staff*, and presentations by the *George D. Cook Post*. All the speeches were printed in the paper.

That evening, a dance was held in **Norbury Hall**, sponsored by the American Legion in celebration. Oakley's Augmented Jazz Orchestra provided the music in the "tastefully decorated" hall. What a wonderful day it must have been!

Only five years later, a report covering 1923-1928 listed a medical staff of ten doctors, including Dr. B. F. Neal, Dr. Alice Divine (again see "Wonderful Women..."), and Dr. John Weiss. A consulting staff of nine listed doctors from Kingston, Middletown, New York City, and East Orange, NJ. The barn had been remodeled in 1926 to provide a nurses' residence and the next year a one-story brick addition was built on the west side of the original building to serve maternity patients and related services.

On September 18, 1947, Robert V. Stapleton, President of the Board of Directors of the **Veterans' Memorial Hospital**, addressed an *Ellenville Noonday Club* meeting about the problems of **Veterans' Memorial** as the problems of the entire community. In discussing fiscal problems, he stated that national studies indicated that all public hospitals operate at a deficit (1947)! The campaign for a new wing (*Photo & Caption, below, reported in local paper*)



to resolve the overcrowded contains at the hospital began with a publication titled "In All Our Hours of Need," opening with one-page statement, "There It Stands," which, with very minor changes could be a battle cry for the 2004 endeavor to save the **Ellenville Regional Hospital**.

The fund drive was successful, so successful that it exceeded its \$100,000 goal by almost 50%, and the new wing was built, (*Photo, above*) but as with all growth, changes in medical care, and technology as a whole, **Veterans' Memorial Hospital** was on borrowed time.

According to the 1985 Annual Report of the **Ellenville Community Hospital, Veterans' Memorial Hospital** asked the New York State Division of Hospital Review and Planning for help in 1960 in assessing the need for additional hospital facilities, evaluating alternative proposals for meeting the need, and securing financial assistance if building were to be undertaken. Surveys, recommendations, site evaluation, proposals, meetings, meetings, and ultimately decisions ensued (*Artist's rendering of new Hospital, next page, top*). The decision to build a new hospital at an estimated cost of \$1,200,000 seemed to be an impossible goal, but the fund raising campaign, under the chairmanship of Harry Resnick, then president of *Channel Master*, began in 1962. Half the property was a gift from the Resnick family. By October of that year, more than \$800,000 was pledged. One-third of the necessary funds was to come through the federal and state partnership program known as Hill-Burton. The community had come through with the other two-thirds.

In the Mar. 10, 1966, transfer from **Veterans' Memorial Hospital** to the new **Ellenville Community Hospital**, 88-year-old Mrs. Edythe Coles, widow of Dr. James C.

Coles, a local physician and member of the medical staff of **Veterans' Memorial**, was the first patient to be moved. That same day, James Shorter, Jr. was the first baby to be born in the new hospital.

Tribute must be paid to the **Hospital Auxiliary**, organized on Nov. 7, 1923, as the **Women's Auxiliary of the Veterans' Memorial Hospital** by request of the Board of Directors. Their initial membership campaign enrolled 434 members. The 1923-1928 report by the board recorded that "a committee of the **Auxiliary** selected the bedding, curtains, table linen, dishes, and silver, and some necessary surgical supplies, many of the articles being made by the members in a series of sewing meetings held at the **Hunt Memorial**, the ↗



Pictured above, from left to right, at the recent ground-breaking exercises for the new wing to **Veterans Memorial Hospital** are: William R. Rose and Sidney D. Deane, directors; Robert V. Stapleton, president; Kenneth Mitchell, of the village board; Harold B. Gillette and A. Albert, board members; Mrs. Al Hazen, president of the Women's Auxiliary. Also, Herbert O. Hess, board member; William L. Douglas, former president of the board; Manuel Rosenstock, chairman of the building committee; Mrs. Thelma Mason and Ben Miller, board members; the Rev. William Coombe, who took part in the ceremony; Joseph Slutsky, board member. Also, C. D. Raymond, former president of the board; Frank Hurd, board member; and Ellsworth McDole, contractor. In the rear is E. Boyce TerBush, Jr., a board member; and Harry Slutsky.