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LUNENBURG DAY - MAY 20, 1949

Lunenburg Health Service, Inc. Formally Dedicated to the People of Lunenburg County

Sixty years ago today, on May 20, 1949, the Lunenburg Health Service, Incorporated (LHS), reputedly the only one of its kind in the United States, was launched in ceremonies which attracted state dignitaries and some 2,000 Lunenburg County residents. The day was declared "Lunenburg Day" to mark the event, and many area businesses were closed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to commemorate the day. Governor William M. Tuck and Colgate W. Darden, Jr., President of the University of Virginia and former Governor of Virginia, were principal speakers at the dedication. Distinguished guests in the public health field also addressed the audience.

The day began with the Second Army Band from Fort George G. Meade in Maryland performing as they marched through the center of town and down Main Street to the Victoria-Lunenburg Community Centre where the dedication would take place. The community centre was lavishly decorated with floral arrangements and paper decorations. Live coverage of addresses by Governor Tuck and former Governor Darden was provided by three local radio stations.

E. L. Gee, Mayor of Victoria, and E. M. Bridgforth, Mayor of Kenbridge, presented LHS with the Keys to their respective towns. J. W. Waddill, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, presented the Key to the County of Lunenburg.

Special music was provided by the Victoria-Kenbridge High School Choral Clubs under the direction of Mrs. Dorothy Hardy and by the Victoria Second Grade Rhythm Band. Guests were led in singing a medley of patriotic songs.

Following the program, guests adjourned to the new LHS building where Robert Miles Williams, who provided the funds for the establishment and maintenance of LHS, formally dedicated LHS to the citizens of Lunenburg County. Guests toured the facility, including the nurse's living quarters on the top floor, and enjoyed a number of exhibits that explained the work of LHS.

Following the dedication, all in attendance enjoyed a lunch of lamb stew, beef stew, bread, and iced tea. Tables were spread out up Sixth Street. Guests seemed to especially enjoy the containers holding the iced tea. The food committee had been stumped as to what type of container they could make tea in to serve 2,000 people. They solved the problem by borrowing two new bath 1947tubs and placing them at either end of the serving tables. The tubs held a sufficient quantity for all and afforded all a good laugh.

"Lunenburg Day" was truly a momentous occasion for the people of Lunenburg County. Today we celebrate sixty years of continuous, free health services to the residents of our county. Deborah Craven, a licensed practical nurse, travels thousands of miles each year, often on back roads in isolated areas, to provide medical care and emotional support to patients. She also maintains office hours in the clinic at 1428 Sixth Street in Victoria. Janet Watson, office manager and secretary, is available weekdays to schedule appointments, help clients locate caregivers to work in their homes, and manage the loan of equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, bedside

commodes, porta-lifts, canes, and bedside tables. All services are coordinated through local physicians. For further information about our services, contact us at 696-4446 or by e-mail at lhs1947@centurylink.net. For an overview of the work of the Lunenburg Health Service, Inc. please visit our website, www.lunenburghealthservice.org. Financial contributions to ensure the ongoing mission of LHS may be sent to P. O. Box 121. Victoria, VA 23974.



(1) **Governor William Mumford Tuck** congratulated Lunenburg residents on the establishment of the health service in a talk on the state's accomplishments in education, health, and highway services.



(2) **Colgate W. Darden, Jr.** told the audience he believed that "in the entire state of Virginia there has been no greater sign of determination to do the right thing...than what

you people have done here today. Wherever public-spirited citizens of a community join together to bring to bear their thinking upon the problems of any community, you may be sure that those problems will be solved. They know more about them than any other people; they are more interested in them than any other people, and the solutions they arrive at will be more nearly accurate than can be arrived at by any authority outside their locality. This program will be successful.”



(3) **Miss Willie Elizabeth Guthrie**, Director of Nursing Activities, invited guests to visit the new health service building at the close of the program and introduced distinguished guests in the public health field.



(4) **Distinguished Visitors on Lunenburg Day:** Front Row (L-R): Miss Hazel Higbee, Nursing Director, Virginia State Bureau of Health; Miss Elizabeth Guthrie, Nursing Director, Lunenburg Health Service, Inc.; Commander Marie Wallace, Division Chief Nurse, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, DC. Back Row: Governor William M. Tuck; Dr. L. J. Roper, Virginia State Health Commissioner; Dr. J. C. Neal, Director of Rural Health for Virginia; and Colgate W. Darden, Jr., President of the University of Virginia



(5) **W. Scott Irby, President of the Board of Directors of LHS and Miss Guthrie share** the excitement of the day with **Robert M. Williams**, the donor of the health service.



(6) The **Second Army Band from Fort George C. Meade in Maryland** played several selections before the start of the program after having made a march through the center of town and down Main Street to the Community Centre where the dedication of the health service would take place. They played several selections during the program and while guests were adjourning to the campus of the health service.



(7) A view of the **stage** showing the flower and paper decorations



(8) A view of the **back of the auditorium** showing the blue and white sign



(9) R. S. Weaver, Jr., Program Chairman, is shown accepting the **Key of the Town of Victoria** from Mayor E. L. Gee.



(10) R. S. Weaver, Jr. is shown placing the **Key of the County of Lunenburg** received from Mr. J. W. Waddill, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Lunenburg County.



(11) R. S. Weaver, Jr. is shown as he thanked Mayor E. M. Bridgeforth of Kenbridge for the **Key of the Town of Kenbridge**.



(12) **Robert Miles Williams** provided funds for the establishment and maintenance of LHS, providing a new building, equipment, and funds to secure the services of a nurse trained in public health work.