Dedication Ceremonies Held for Donaldsonville Hospital

Facility Is Named After

Dr. Prevost

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DONALDSONVILLE, La. — The new Prevost Memorial Hospital here was dedicated Sunday afternoon.

The ceremony, slated for outdoors, was moved inside the $751,278 structure because of inclement weather.

Dr. Earl A. Schexnayder, chief of staff and chairman of the hospital board of commissioners, said that it was named for Dr. Francois Marie Prevost, a Donaldsonville physician who had performed the second Caesarian section in the United States here in 1822.

Dr. Prevost’s history was given by Dr. Percy H. LeBlanc, vice chairman of the hospital district and vice chief of staff.

Dr. LeBlanc said that Dr. Prevost was born in France in 1771 and studied medicine there.

MEDICAL HISTORY

He practiced in Donaldsonville for over 50 years and was 42 years old when he performed the operation that made medical history.

Both Dr. Schexnayder and Dr. LeBlanc noted that the late Dr. Henry Fosse, Donaldsonville, had been the first to propose constructing a community hospital and dedicating it to the memory of Dr. Prevost.

Mayor Lawrence Regira, Donaldsonville, cut the ribbon officially opening the hospital which is scheduled to begin receiving patients Monday morning.

Assisting the mayor were Mrs. Ida Hidalgo, acting director of nurses, and City Councilman Claude Bourg Jr. and Ridley Gros.

HOSPITAL ADDITION

Dr. Schexnayder said the new hospital will attract physicians to the community and that eventually the hospital will have to be larger.

He said that provisions have been made for this and that the 35-bed hospital could take care of 48 patients at any time by placing two beds in the 13 private rooms.

Two major additions were planned with the original drawings, he said.

One is another 35-bed unit at ground level and the other is a second story.

FINANCIAL REPORT

In a financial report, Glen Robert, secretary-treasurer of the board of commissioners, said that the construction contract was given to Smith Cabinet Works, Denham Springs, and that equipment and other costs have run the total to $925,000.

Taxpayers of the hospital district created by the Ascension Parish Police Jury had approved a $750,000 bond issue and federal government had provided added funds, he said.

Charles R. Gage, executive director of the Louisiana Hospital Association, presented a membership certificate to Dr. Schexnayder and welcomed Prevost Hospital as “one of our 160-member hospitals.”

City Councilman Bourg presented a plaque of appreciation from local citizens to the board of commissioners.

STAFF MAKEUP

Dr. Roy Fosse, member of the board of commissioners, described the staff makeup of the hospital, and commissioner Vic Marcello said that now “a great part of our medical dollars will remain at home.”

Dr. Schexnayder paid tribute to Joseph Calandro for donation of the hospital eight acre site and said that a monument commemorating the gift will be erected.

J. Ben Meyer Jr., chief of the division of construction, state, department of hospitals, was a speaker.

Others on the program were Harmon Knight, hospital administrator; the Rt. Rev. E. J. Gubler, pastor of Ascension Catholic Church; George Broom, city attorney; La. Rep. Emery J. Villar; Paul Kiene, hospital consultant; Percy LeBlanc, hospital architect and the Rev. Marshall Paine, pastor of the Donaldsonville Methodist Church.

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