

Helena Civic Leader

Claude L. Meredith Heads Fort Harrison VA Center

Claude L. Meredith has been manager or director of the Veterans Administration Center at Fort Harrison since Feb. 14, 1946. In 1946, the regional office activities were separated from the hospital activities and Meredith was appointed regional manager. The hospital and regional office activities again were combined



Claude L. Meredith
(Regional Manager)

into the Veterans Administration Center.

Started With VA in 1926
Meredith entered the employ of the Veterans Administration May 3, 1926, as claims examiner. He was promoted to legal member of the rating board, chairman of the rating board, adjudication

officer, chief attorney, chief of the vocational rehabilitation and education division, and assistant manager of the center.

He was born Sept. 29, 1900, at Nebraska City, Neb., and came to Montana from Oklahoma in 1915. Meredith was educated in Montana grade and high schools, and after service with the U.S. Marine Corps during World War I, took a pre-law course at Montana State College. He completed his legal education at Montana State University and was awarded his L.L.B. degree in 1928. In the same year, he was admitted to the Montana bar.

Son Is Lawyer

Meredith married Beatrice A. Halbert of Harlowton on Sept. 1, 1928. They have one son, Edward Lee (Ted) Meredith, a graduate of Carroll College and Montana State University Law School. He is practicing law in Billings.

During the years of his employment with the Veterans Administration, Meredith has been active in Helena social, civic and fraternal organizations.

Fort Harrison Authorized 70 Years Ago

Fort Harrison was authorized by an Act of Congress on May 12, 1893 and construction of the military post began in 1894 with completion in 1896.

U.S. Army troops were stationed at Fort Harrison until 1912 and in 1916, the Montana National Guard assembled at Fort Harrison for duty on the Mexican border, returning for mustering out of federal service on Nov. 3, 1916.

The Montana National Guard assembled again at Fort Harrison in 1917 for duty in France during World War I.

Hospital Opened in 1921

Through an agreement between the Secretary of Treasury and Secretary of War, the part of the Army buildings for hospital services was turned over to the U.S. Public Health Service.

The USPHS hospital opened July 6, 1921, but on May 18 of the following year, the hospital was turned over to the Veterans Bureau, predecessor of the present Veterans Administration.

In 1932, a new modern hospital and clinical building was constructed by the Veterans Administration. It included a central heating plant.

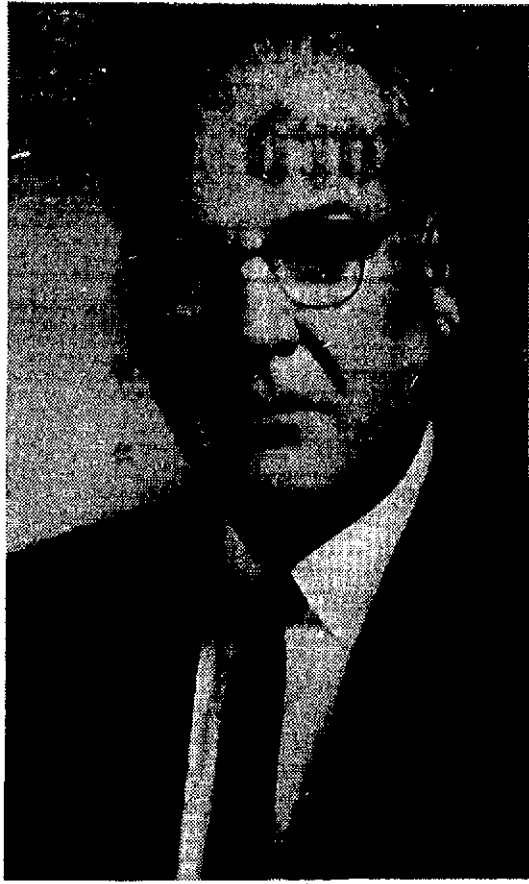
Severe Damage

A series of severe earthquakes damaged many of the buildings and the hospital was closed on Oct. 31, 1935. It was not reopened until Feb. 15, 1937, after extensive repairs had been completed on the damaged buildings and those beyond repair were removed.

In 1936, a new kitchen and dining room were constructed by the VA.

A cantonment-type hospital was constructed in 1942 by the U.S. Army. Built adjacent to the VA hospital building, it was used by the First Special Service Force and consisted of a main hospital building, nurses' quarters and wards of the cantonment-type.

The buildings were connected to the VA central heating plant and other utilities. In 1944, the buildings were turned over to the Veterans Administration and on Nov. 14, 1946, the Secretary of War transferred



Dr. Gilbert M. Stevenson
(Chief of Staff)



Dr. Gilbert M. Stevenson Is Chief of Medical Staff at New VA Hospital

Dr. Gilbert M. Stevenson, chief of staff for the VA Center at Fort Harrison Hospital, was born in Duluth, Minn., on July 15, 1901. He received his bachelor of Science from Macalester College in St. Paul, and his degree as Doctor of Medicine from the University of Minnesota in 1927.

Dr. Stevenson interned at Gorgas Hospital, Ancon, Panama Canal Zone, in 1927 and 1928, and was a resident in medicine at Panama Hospital, Republic of Panama, from 1928 to 1931.

Formerly in Canal Zone

Until 1953, he was employed as physician with the health department of the Panama Canal Zone, and was chief of the medical service at Gorgas Hospital from 1946 to 1953.

Dr. Stevenson joined the Veterans Administration Medical

Service in July 1953, at Augusta, Ga., and served there until July, 1957. He transferred to the VA Hospital at Birmingham, Ala., in 1957 and served there as director of Professional Services until 1961.

Chief Since 1961

In July, 1961, Dr. Stevenson became chief of staff at the Fort Harrison VA Hospital and continues in that capacity. He is directly in charge and responsible for all professional medical activities at the hospital.

Dr. Stevenson was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in 1947, and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

He is a veteran of World War II, having served in the Army Medical Corps from 1941 until discharged as a lieutenant colonel in 1946.

title to the land and buildings known as the hospital area of Fort William Henry Harrison to the Veterans Administration.

Consolidation

On June 5, 1929, the Helena regional office of the VA, then located in Helena, was consolidated with the hospital at Fort Harrison.

However, on Feb. 14, 1946, these were divorced and a separate regional office and a separate hospital were maintained until Sept. 30, 1948.

These were consolidated again, effective Oct. 1, 1948, and the regional office and hospital became known as the Veterans Administration Center, Fort Harrison.

Modernization began in June, 1961, when a contract was let to build the new 160-bed hospital which replaces the one previously used. Construction of the \$3,975,000 project was started that summer and the completed building was turned over to the VA by the contractor on July 19.

Patients and equipment were moved into the new hospital during August.

Additional Modernization

A contract for the second phase of modernization at Fort Harrison was let on June 29 on a bid of \$640,000.

The contract calls for some remodeling of the interior of the old hospital building to make room for all the regional office activities and medical administrative staffs.

When that remodeling is completed, all regional office groups and medical administrative personnel will be moved into the building. All the cantonment-type wooden buildings will be removed.

Road improvements and completion of a parking lot also are planned.

Firm Asks Board For Oil Field In McCone County

A Phillips Petroleum Co. request that the state establish a new oil and gas field in McCone County will be heard in Helena Oct. 10 by the Montana Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

The company said it has found oil and gas in commercial quantities in the area it wants delineated. Phillips asks that field rules be adopted limiting wells to one in 160 acres.

The state regulatory agency said it desires suggestions for naming the field.

Also set for hearing Oct. 10 are requests by:

—Cardinal Petroleum Co. for 640-acre spacing units for natural gas production from the Madison formation underlying certain land in Liberty County.

—Shell Oil Co. for approval of a program to dispose of salt water produced with oil in the Pannel and Monarch fields of Fallon County by injection into the Mission Canyon formation.

—Paul F. Rutledge for an exception to spacing rules in the Sidney-Brorson Field of Richland County.

Rehab With Wages

Tillberg, Sweden — (AP) — Next year a group of first-time convicted criminals in a new prison farm will start paying off their debt to society by building four-room houses.

Inmates will be paid a yearly wage of between \$1,400 and \$2,000. From this will be deducted taxes, board and room, allowances to families and court costs for their trials.

It is estimated that this form of criminal rehabilitation will cost some \$400 more yearly per prisoner.

Since It Opened

56,064 Patients Received Care at Fort Harrison

Since the first patient was admitted to U.S. Public Health Service Hospital No. 72 at Fort Harrison on June 6, 1921, through Aug. 31 of this year, 56,064 patients have been admitted for treatment.

Today, the total Veterans Administration Center payroll for its 334 employees is \$2,428,220.

\$1.8 Million in Salaries
The breakdown includes \$1,658,788 in salary costs and personal services under the medical program for in-patients, \$163,461 for out-patients for a total of \$1,822,249 for 253 employees. The regional office of the VA which employs 81 persons has a payroll of \$605,971.

Army buildings at Fort William Henry Harrison were turned over to the USPHS in November, 1919, for use as a hospital for discharged veterans.

On May 7, 1922, the USPHS relinquished its hospital to the Veterans Bureau, predecessor of the present Veterans Administration.

140 Patients in Daily Load

For the past several years, between 2,000 and 2,100 veterans have been admitted for care and treatment as in-patients. The average daily patient load throughout the year has been averaging between 140 and 145 patients per day.

Budgets for fiscal 1964 call for a total of \$2,379,561. The figure includes \$1,933,686 in the primary fund allocation for operation of the hospital, \$349,903 for out-patient service and the balance in allowances for expendables, contract hospital and aid to the State Soldiers Home.

Tentative allocation of the primary fund for in-patients calls for these expenditures: care of patients, \$1,145,561; general administration, \$284,892; housekeeping, \$112,875; engineering operation, \$246,440, and maintenance and repair, \$87,060 or a total of \$1,876,828.

Equipment Costs

Added to this will be \$56,858 which will include \$10,977 for other operating expenses, \$41,209 for equipment replacement and \$4,672 for equipment additions.

Not included in fiscal totals is \$255,804 as the allotment for VA furnished equipment in the new hospital building which will be a non-recurring amount.

VA personnel note that although a great deal of new equipment has been installed by the contractor as part of the original contract to build the new hospital, an additional \$255,804 has been budgeted for more new equipment in the new unit.

Employe Breakdown

A breakdown of the 253 employees at the VA Center shows 12 out-patient medical personnel, 136 in professional services and 105 as the supporting staff.

The supporting staff includes 22 persons in the registrar office, four in personnel, 11 in supplies, 22 in housekeeping, 44 in engineering and one each in personnel quarters and prosthetics.

The 81 employees of the region-

Won't Slacken Efforts In Space, JFK Says

Washington — (AP) — President Kennedy said his offer to cooperate with the Soviet Union in reaching the moon enhances the need for a strong national space program and is not a signal to slacken U.S. efforts.

With the First Sip

Nashville, Tenn. — (AP) — Sign in a Nashville tavern: "We sell instant leisure."

al office include five persons in office, four for contact, 13.5 in the director's office, 31 in serv. adjudication and 17.5 in the loan files, 10 in the chief attorney's division.

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that the NEW
VETERANS' HOSPITAL

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of Montana can

be proud of

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Veterans'

Administration

HOSPITAL

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We are particularly proud of our part in its construction.

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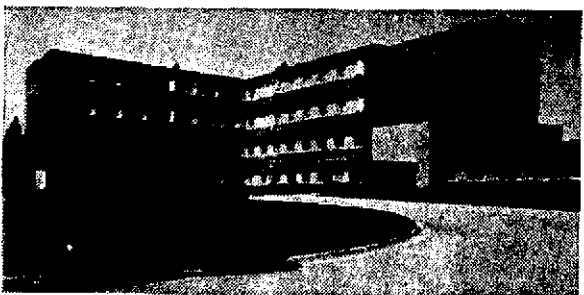
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

The New Veterans Administration

HOSPITAL

is a fine improvement for Helena and Montana

We hope you will plan to attend the dedication today at 2 p.m. Guided tours will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. for those wishing to see the hospital first hand.



Painting and Decorating by
HANLEY GLASS & PAINTING CO.

and
THOMAS A. McKELVEY

Our Sincere Best Wishes

to the staff and management of the new

Veterans' Administration Hospital
We are glad to have been connected with the building of this fine institution.

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to the Staff and Management

of the new

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