



WILLIS-KNIGHTON HOSPITAL will begin construction on a \$1.5 million expansion program within the next ten days. Edwin A. Moore, newly elected president of the board of trustees of Willis-Knighton, signs the contract with Werner Co., Inc., low bidder for the

job, as Murray Werner, president of the company, looks on. Plans for an addition and complete remodeling of the existing building were drawn by Paul G. Annan and Gilmer, architects. (Times Photo by Lloyd Stille)

WILL JOIN TWO PRESENT STRUCTURES

\$1.5 Million Expansion Soon To Start at Willis-Knighton

Construction on a new \$1.5 million expansion program for Willis-Knighton Hospital will begin in about ten days, it was announced by Edwin A. Moore, newly elected president of the board of trustees.

Werner Co., Inc., is contractor. Plans call for an addition of 47,000 square feet to be built between the present hospital and Willis-Knighton Clinic, with a driveway running through the building from Virginia Avenue to Hearne Avenue giving access to both the clinic and new emergency rooms.

"In effect, the clinic and the hospital will all be under one roof," said Paul G. Annan, of Annan and Gilmer, architects, who drew the plans for the structure.

Upon completion of the new building, the existing hospital will be completely renovated. The expansion is expected to take about a year and a half to completion, and will bring the capacity of the hospital from the present 125 beds to 175.

"It will take more time to complete the building than is usual," said Mrs. Louise Fry, administrator of Willis-Knighton, "since we must complete the new part before we can touch the present building. In this way, patients will not be disturbed by the construction."

A new entrance will be built in the addition with a lobby and new admitting rooms. A cafeteria seating 80 people will open from the lobby, with a new kitchen planned for maximum efficiency in the basement.

The present kitchen and dining room will be converted into a new laboratory and conference room, with the present lobby given over to business offices.

room, and all rooms will have television and either full or half baths. New furnishings and equipment will be used in both the new and present rooms.

"I am really enthusiastic about the rearrangement of departments which will result with the expansion," said Mrs. Fry. The new wing will have a complete new maternity and obstetrics department all on one floor with waiting areas and sitting rooms on the second floor.

The third floor will provide rooms for pediatric patients and medical and surgical patients. An additional operating room will be located beside the operating rooms so that physicians can keep an eye on their patients between operations.

The present building was constructed in 1926, and expanded in 1929. Plans for the expansion program have been under way for the past year and a half.

Funds for the new construction are being raised locally, and the hospital has already received some gifts. Discussing the financing of the new expansion, Moore made the following statement:

"For more than a year we explored the various avenues of financing our development costs, including the use of government funds through the Hill-Burton Act. We finally concluded that we could, and would, build our institution without asking the government to give us, or lend us, any of the taxpayers' money."

"The hospital is a tax-free foundation and, accordingly, it is not and can not be operated for the financial benefit of any individual or group of doctors, or otherwise for profit. A contribution to the hospital is tax deductible.

Our program has been examined and approved by the Public Solicitation Review Council of Shreveport; it will require the expenditure of almost \$1,500,000 and we hope to raise a minimum of \$400,000 through contributions.

The doctors of the visiting staff of the hospital have already pledged more than \$100,000, and

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