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of
c a r i n g

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GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL



A century ago, the citizens of Union County had a dream—to bring modern medicine and quality healthcare to its residents. Speaking on behalf of the staff at Grande Ronde Hospital, it has been an exciting and rewarding experience to help shape that dream into a reality that has grown beyond anyone's imagination...

— Jim Mattes, President/CEO

EMERGENCY

ENTER HERE
ALL PATIENT
REGISTRATION

Clear-Choice
Access
Point
For All Patients
And Visitors



1907

“There was no
that medical s



thing kill could do.”

Racing from home to home, from one emergency to another was standard practice for Union County doctors in the early 1900s. Life-saving procedures were regularly performed on kitchen tables in Elgin, on couches in Summerville and on family beds in Cove. Transportation relied on horse and buggy and there was no way to quickly cover distances in an emergency. Just traveling between La Grande and Union was considered an overnight expedition. Something had to change.

Consider the plight of W.G. Hunter, mayor of Island City. In 1907, Hunter was

Horse and buggy was the common mode of transportation in the early 1900s, which meant it could take hours before a doctor arrived. Just traveling between La Grande and Union was considered an overnight trip. These were the days of no roads and no snowplows.



February 14, 1859

Oregon admitted as the 33rd U.S. state.

1861

Gold fever struck Eastern Oregon bringing many young men to the area.



1884

Railroad track between La Grande and Pendleton completed.

1891

La Grande had a population of about 1,200 people, a handful of doctors and no hospital. Serious cases were sent by train to Walla Walla, Boise or Portland.



1901

Union dentist, Dr. R.J. Ruckman used a foot pedal-powered drill and worked by gas light.

1903

Oregon formed a state board of public health – one of the last states in the country to do so.

September 2, 1904

A public drinking fountain known as Cast Iron Mary was purchased by the Women's Christian Temperance Union and located at the intersection of Adams Avenue and Elm Street. Designed to last for the ages, it was demolished in 1924, by a bootlegger who crashed his car into the fountain as he fled the police.

1907

Small pox, cholera, scarlet fever, diphtheria, tuberculosis and typhoid fever were major public threats. A diphtheria epidemic swept through the town of Union in 1909, closing the schools and all public meetings were banned.

May 10, 1908

The first baby was born: Genevieve Ruth Hanna (GRH) Rogers.



“...the name assumed
– The Grande Ronde”

Upon opening its doors in 1907, Grande Ronde Hospital was immediately busy caring for patients. The head nurse earned \$50 a month. Sutures were made with horsehair, catgut, silkworm and kangaroo tendon—some of the strongest natural material around. Inventory included opium pills, lime water, whisky and brandy.

blown 15 feet in the air by seven sticks of dynamite, as reported in the La Grande Evening Observer. The middle of the mayor's left thigh was torn open and the bone shattered. Only amputation could save the mayor's life. Yet after the leg was removed, the doctors found that the hip, too, was a mass of broken bones. Further amputation was required. But the physical shock was too severe. There was nothing medical skill could do. W.G. Hunter couldn't be saved.

The story of Grande Ronde Hospital is a story of people. It begins with a trio of physicians: Drs. Carlton T. Bacon, Nicholas Molitor, and Alfred L. Richardson. They

ed by said corporation is de Hospital.” Oregon Secretary of State

were motivated by an exhausting schedule of house calls that kept them on the run and practicing medicine in less than ideal circumstances. In March, 1907, the doctors joined physician George L. Biggers in purchasing two acres at the west end of Adams Avenue on which to build a hospital.

A corporation was formed and a name chosen: Grande Ronde Hospital – to be built for \$16,000.

While the four-story brick building was under construction, the doctors rented a house at the corner of Third and Penn Streets to serve as the temporary hospital.

Farming was not an occupation for the weak and farm equipment could be very dangerous. Accidents were common occurrences.



August 12, 1912

Ex-president Theodore Roosevelt gave a brief speech to an estimated 7000 people on a visit through La Grande. Four years earlier he designated 11 national forests in Oregon, and in 1902 he created Crater Lake National Park.



1914

Cove Cherry Festival Parade – Union County loves parades and the third annual Cove Cherry Festival was a great reason to bring out the French horns, trombones, tubas, wind instruments and drums.

July 12, 1915

The Liberty Bell visited Union County by train, stopping in La Grande for 35 minutes. An estimated crowd of 10,000 to 15,000 people viewed the bell from special platforms alongside the tracks.



1921

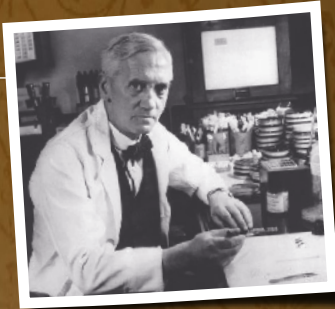
The Band-Aid was invented. Earle Dickson was employed as a cotton buyer for Johnson & Johnson when he invented the band-aid. His wife was always cutting her fingers in the kitchen while preparing food. His boss, James Johnson, saw Dickson's invention and decided to manufacture band-aids to the public and make Dickson vice-president of Johnson & Johnson.

1922

Dr. Frederick Banting discovered insulin as a treatment for diabetes. Insulin is a hormone produced in the pancreas. It was isolated in 1921-22 at the University of Toronto.

1928

Scottish biologist Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin.



1929

Eastern Oregon Normal School opened its doors.

May 1, 1931

The Empire State Building, the world's tallest building (for the next 40 years) opened today in New York City.

April 14, 1935

The great dust bowl storm, made famous by Woody Guthrie in his "dust bowl ballads" blew through Eastern New Mexico, Colorado, and Oklahoma.

1941

U.S. entered World War II.



For a time, La Grande had two hospitals. St. Joseph Hospital opened its doors in 1938. The Catholic hospital was operated by the Sisters of St. Francis for just over 30 years. Suffering from a shortage of nuns and facing huge remodeling costs, the hospital closed in 1971.

It was immediately busy, with new patients entering nearly every day. No longer did medicine have to be practiced on tables, beds and couches.

Grande Ronde Hospital quickly proved its value to the community. Despite encountering financial difficulties early on, there was no doubt that the hospital was an absolute necessity to the region.

By the 1920s, the facility operated at little if any loss and was becoming known as the surgical center for Eastern Oregon.



Joseph Hospital - La Grande, Oregon



The Great Depression impacted rural areas as farmers suffered from crop prices that fell by 40 to 60 percent. Mining and logging were hard hit, too, because product demand fell sharply with few employment alternatives. The Great Depression lasted through most of the 1930s.

In 1939, Grande Ronde Hospital was officially designated a non-profit corporation. By this time, Dr. Richardson and his wife, Lillian were sole owners of the facility. Ten years later they sold it to Dr. Clarence L. Gilstrap and Stan Johnsen, an anesthetist. The next two decades saw great advances in medical knowledge, but the 55-year-old hospital was on a decline. Corridors and patient rooms were too small, plumbing was inadequate. An ineffectual floor plan led to inefficiencies in form and function and power outages were common.

After more than 50 years on Adams Avenue and having helped thousands of patients from Eastern Oregon, Grande Ronde Hospital was about to undergo a huge transformation.



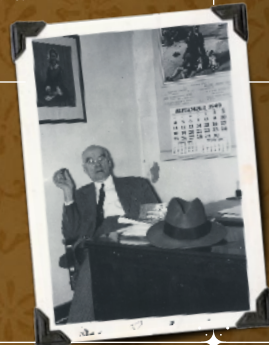
• 1944
The kidney dialysis machine was invented by Willem Kolff. Kolff also worked on, but did not patent, an artificial heart.

1949
Dr. Clarence L. Gilstrap and Stan Johnsen purchased Grande Ronde Hospital from Dr. Richardson.

• 1952
The first polio vaccine was developed by Jonas Salk.

• January 20, 1953
Dwight D. Eisenhower, former five-star Army general and Allied commander in Europe during World War II, was inaugurated as the 34th U.S. President.

• April 4, 1953
Dr. Alfred L. Richardson, one of Grande Ronde Hospital's founding fathers, retired after 60 years and one month of practice.



• 1960
Logging continued to dominate the area's manufacturing. Eastern Oregon's share of the state's timber production rose between the 1950s and 1960s, and logging and mills were a key part of the economy in Union, Baker, Willa, and Grant counties.

• January 20, 1961
John Fitzgerald Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th U.S. President.

1962

Modern Aspirations Ambitious Plans



The entire community supported the construction of a new Grande Ronde Hospital including local school children. On February 27, 1964, student leaders delivered \$680 to campaign chairman Gale Beals (center). Beals was a manager at Boise Cascade Lumber Co. Left to right: Mike Berry, Larry Miller, Greg Fallow, Doug Kirby, David Olson, Tom Easley, Alan Eustace, Wayne Spencer.



ons Fuel for New Hospital

With the hospital sliding into disrepair, Dr. Gilstrap and Stan Johnsen considered the options. To remodel the aging structure would cost more than \$500,000 and even then, the hospital would probably not qualify for accreditation. In 1962, community leaders formed the Eastern Oregon Community Medical Center, Inc., through the La Grande Union County Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Gilstrap and Johnsen then donated Grande Ronde Hospital to the corporation. In a matter of weeks, the hospital's new board of directors had state funds approved for a new 39-bed hospital to be located on Sunset Drive.

The Grande Ronde Hospital Auxiliary was established in April 1965. Duties include helping with surgical admitting and running the gift shop. Over the years, the Auxiliary has funded many important projects including portable defibrillators, an X-ray machine and exercise equipment for the Rehabilitation Department.



• May 6, 1964

David Baum took the first shovel at the official groundbreaking ceremonies for the new hospital.



• July 1964

Dr. Luther L. Terry, the U.S. Surgeon General, issued a report linking cigarette smoking to lung cancer and other diseases.

• 1965

The surgeon general determined that smoking is a health hazard and required cigarette manufacturers to place warnings on all packages and in all ads.

• January 15, 1966

A formal dedication of the new Grande Ronde Hospital was held today. The hospital was the first "all air conditioned" facility in La Grande.



• July 1, 1966

Medicare went into effect.

• November 5, 1968

Republican Richard M. Nixon narrowly defeated Democrat Hubert Humphrey in the U.S. presidential election.

• 1968

East wing patient rooms added.

July 1969

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin in Apollo XI were the first men to walk on the moon.

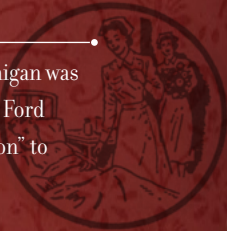


May 16, 1971

Alexander McKenzie was honored for his contributions to the hospital. A member of the original Board of Trustees, McKenzie was credited with raising approximately 25 percent of the total campaign funds. In 1971 he gifted his 156 acre Imbler farm to the hospital Foundation.

August 9, 1974

Vice President Gerald R. Ford of Michigan was sworn in as 38th president of the U.S. Ford granted "full, free, and absolute pardon" to ex-president Nixon on September 8.



1975

South wing patient rooms added.



January 4, 1976

Vina Ross cut the ribbon in a formal dedication of the south wing, in memory of her late husband, Dr. Webster Ross. The new wing included an intensive care unit (ICU) and a cardiac care unit (CCU). (Now used for Respiratory Care and administrative offices.) Ross was a long-time La Grande physician who died in 1974.



Hospital Board members in 1964 included the following people: back row, left to right: Rev. Danny Pyles, Averitt Hickox, Dr. John Miller, David Baum, Rev. William Woodman, Tom Conklin, A.B. "Spud" Olson. Front row, left to right: Rev. Louis Sampson, Lucile Lumsden (secretary), Alex McKenzie, F.S. Emery.

The hospital invested in new patient care equipment as it became available. Here, nurse Anne Goshorn, Bob Lonn, a representative of Stat Medical, Inc., of Spokane, and Connie Yeakley, learn about a new patient procedure. Dramatic changes have occurred in the nursing profession since Grande Ronde Hospital first opened its doors. Nursing still calls for sensitive and caring individuals, but it has evolved into a highly technical profession.

An ambitious fundraising campaign for the new Grande Ronde Hospital ensued, a \$750,000 project. Under the direction of board chair David C. Baum, the community responded enthusiastically and money poured in from all over: businesses, school children, families and individuals, including a woman who sold her late husband's diamond ring and contributed the money to the new facility. Campaign chair, Gale Beals, was astonished by the community support. With a \$65,000 donation from Boise Cascade, it took only six months to meet the goal of raising \$260,000 in



Many employees have been with Grande Ronde Hospital for years, such as Dottie Hixson, who worked as a nurse from 1956 to 1990. Dottie now serves as a volunteer with the Auxiliary.



the community. When the campaign ended, \$465,000 had been pledged by the community.

The new 39-bed Grande Ronde Hospital, was formally dedicated on January 15, 1966. It was one of the first million dollar facilities in the nation financed by public funds from cities with populations of 10,000 or less.

The next two decades were momentous, with four additions and much remodeling. A major expansion in 1982 added a second floor, expanded the critical care unit and relocated some patient care services and the public driveway.

Paul Shorb and Lee Awmiller check hospital records in 1982. At the time, the hospital's state-of-the-art computer consisted of 50 megabytes of ram, a CPU as big as a refrigerator, and a dot matrix printer.



• November 2, 1976

Jimmy Carter elected U.S. president.

• 1977

Hospital lab technicians still used Bunsen burners and did blood counts by hand in 1977. Left to right: Carl Bond, Dorothy Duby Peacock, John Sanchez, and Robert Achard.



• May 21, 1978

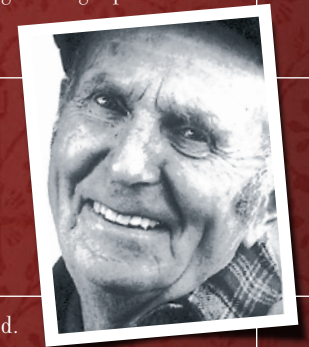
More than 200 people braved the rain to attend a dedication in memory of David Baum and the new, two-level hospital wing, which included operating, emergency and X-ray departments.

• 1980

University of Oregon Health Sciences Center and Eastern Oregon State College started a nursing school, with Grande Ronde Hospital providing training experience.

• 1982

As Chair of the Board of Trustees, Glen McKenzie led the hospital's 75th anniversary celebration.



• 1982

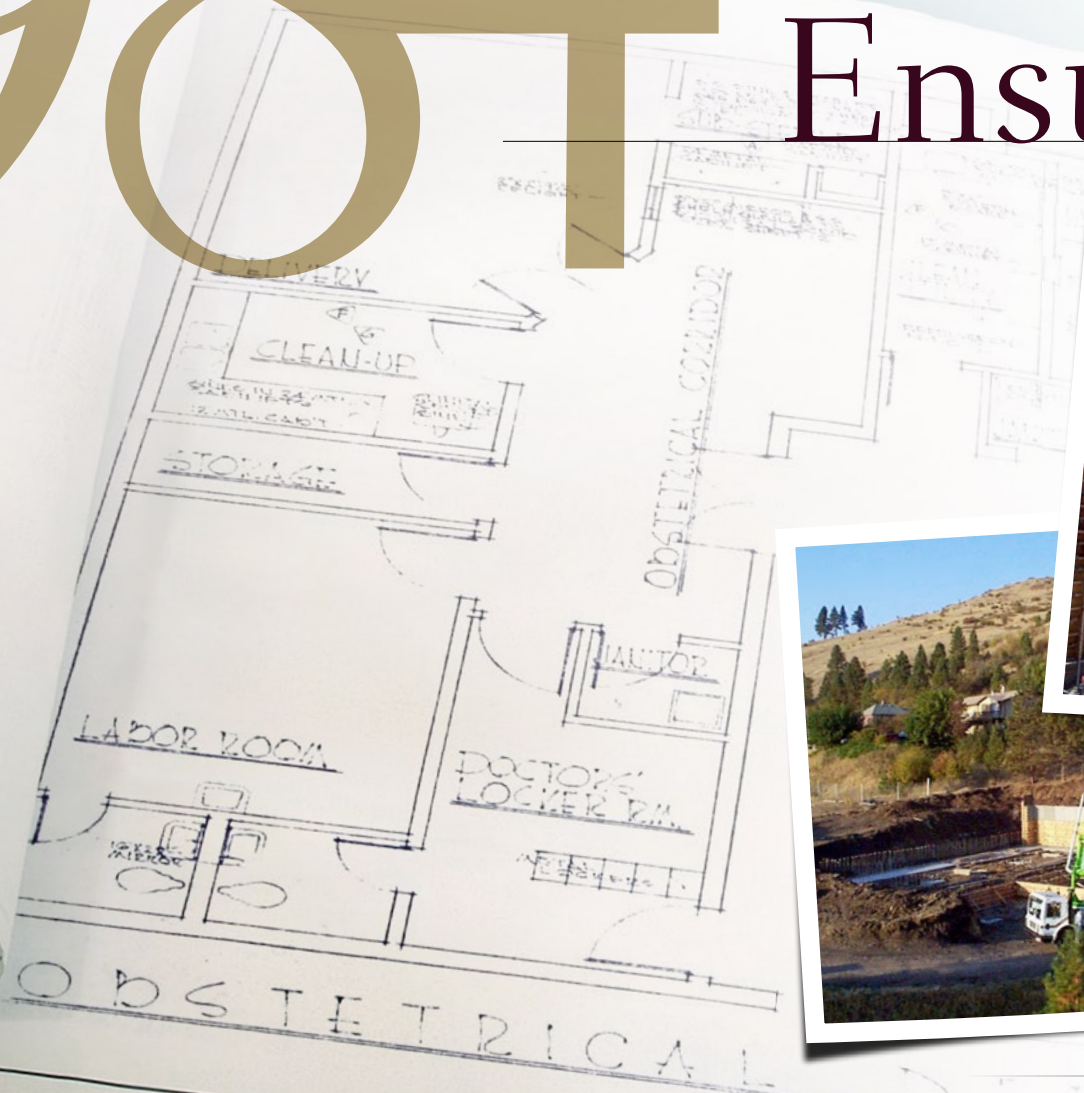
Second floor patient rooms added. (Now medical/surgical unit)

• June 19, 1985

An ammendment to the articles of incorporation of Eastern Oregon Community Medical Center, Inc., officially changed the hospital's name to Grande Ronde Hospital, Inc.

1984

Fulfilling a Vision Ensuring Future



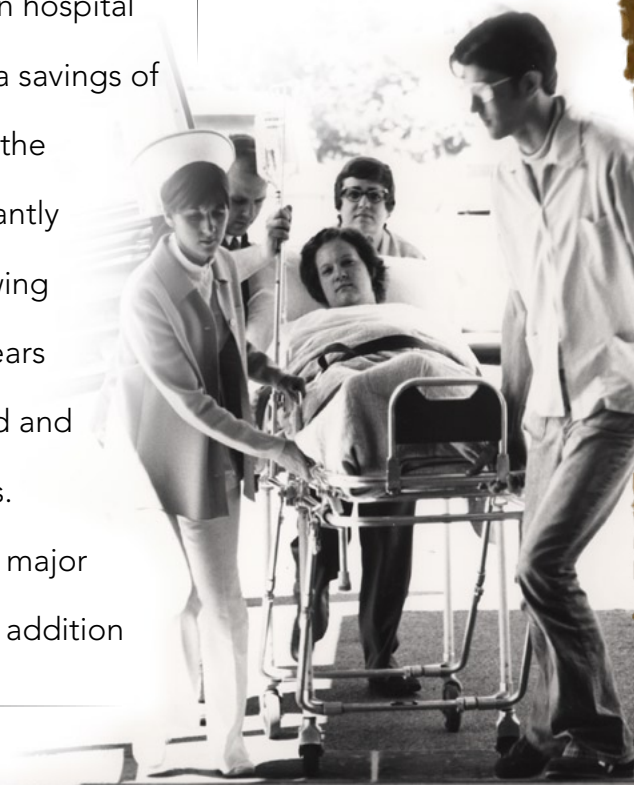
ion, ure Viability

*I*n 1984, Grande Ronde Hospital welcomed a new President and CEO, Jim Mattes. Under Mattes' leadership, dramatic savings for the hospital occurred when hospital debt was restructured in 1985. This resulted in a savings of more than \$5 million in interest payments over the next 10 years. Interest expense savings significantly improved the hospital's financial position, allowing all bonded debt to be paid off in a few short years which provided the capital necessary to expand and rebuild the hospital over the following decades.

In 1992, the hospital went through another major expansion project and added a third floor. This addition



Jim Mattes joined Grande Ronde Hospital as its new president and CEO in 1984.



• July, 1984

Three therapy services were acquired by the hospital: physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy.

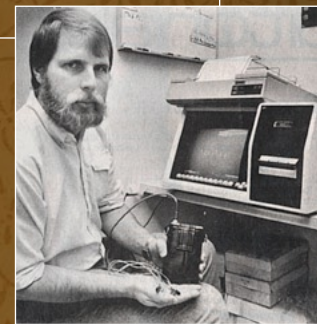


• 1984

The four-lane interstate highway I-84 was completed, running continuously from Portland through La Grande, to the Idaho border east of Ontario.

• August, 1984

The Respiratory Department acquired a Holter monitor – a portable device that monitors heart waves and activity. The monitor diagnoses heart problems and helps doctors prescribe the best care.



• October 9, 1984

The public was invited to attend an open house to learn about the hospital's newly acquired CT (computerized axial tomographic) scanner.

• July 1, 1987

Home care services were acquired by the hospital.

• 1989

Lobby and admitting areas remodeled.



1990
Construction of third floor
Family Birthing Center began.



1990
Expansion of
nuclear medicine
department.

1992
The Family Birthing
Center won a Healthcare
Design Award.

1993
Grande Ronde Hospital installed its first MRI system.
Magnetic resonance imaging is a method of looking
inside the body without using surgery, harmful dyes
or x-rays. The MRI scanner uses magnetism and radio
waves to produce clear pictures of the human anatomy.

1993 & 1994
Benchmark for Success named Grande Ronde
Hospital one of the Top 100 U.S. Hospitals.



Providing community education classes that promote wellness is integral to the hospital's mission. In 1997, Grande Ronde Hospital won the "Outstanding Service for Diabetes Education in the Community" award from the American Diabetes Association.

All changes to the hospital campus go through a comprehensive planning process, which is submitted to the Board of Trustees for their approval. Department managers, master planning documents, facility tours and building condition studies help identify and prioritize implementation of projects.

houses the Family Birthing Center, a C-Section surgical suite and Community Health Education Classrooms.

In July, 1997, a new north wing was added to the building. This expansion project houses the Rehabilitation Therapy Department, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy services.

A 7,000 square foot building providing storage, vehicle bays and living quarters for visiting physicians was completed in May, 2000. The project included three upper parking lots, and an alternate driveway for fire department access. In February 2003 the hospital celebrated an expanded Emergency Services Department and admitting area.





In 2004, Grande Ronde Hospital participated in a national program created to sustain the viability of rural healthcare providers and was designated a Critical Access Hospital. This designation ensures that the community will continue to have access to primary care and emergency health care services at Grande Ronde Hospital while helping to assure the financial viability of the facility.

By 2007, the hospital owns and operates three community clinics: Grande Ronde Hospital Children's Clinic, Grande Ronde Hospital Women's Clinic, and Grande Ronde Hospital Internal Medicine Clinic.

The facade of Grande Ronde Hospital was greatly improved in 2003, with a canopy extension to its front northwest corner. The canopy helped unify the hospital's appearance.



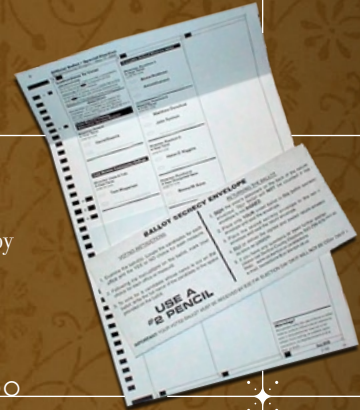
• 1995
National recognition was bestowed to Grande Ronde Hospital when it was named one of the Top 50 Hospitals in Managing Costs, by KPMG Peat Marwick.

• 1997
Grande Ronde Hospital was named one of the Top 38 small, rural, not-for-profit hospitals, by Phase II Consulting.

• November 5, 2000
Oregon became the first state in the nation to conduct a presidential election entirely by mail. About 80 percent of registered voters participated.

• August 1, 2004
Grande Ronde Hospital was designated a Critical Access Hospital.

• 2007
Grande Ronde Hospital celebrates a century of caring for the people of Eastern Oregon.



2007

The Art of



*The Total Joint Team
left to right:
Gregg Densmore, MD
Michelle Sandoval, RN
Rachel Gomes, RN
June Wilson, OT
Richard Haddock, MD
Jeff Whinery, PT
Tina Aster, LPN*

f Caring

*D*espite undergoing many transformations since it first opened its doors 100 years ago, some things remain unchanged: from day one, Grande Ronde Hospital has played a vital role in the health of the community. Our size and shape may be different, but the passion and talent of our physicians, nurses, administrative staff and volunteers is stronger than ever.

Our people make the difference. They are your friends, your neighbors, your family. Many have lived in the community for generations. While we provide innovative medical treatments

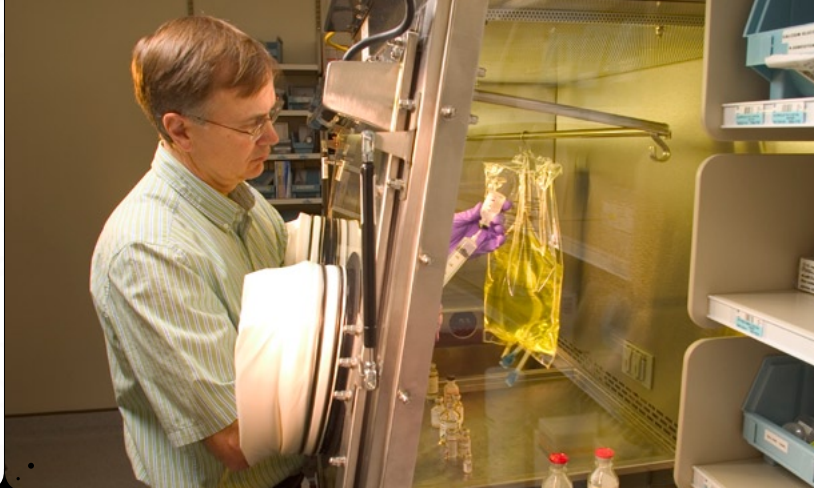


Teamwork, communication, skill and compassion are essential requirements throughout all hospital departments. The work is demanding but the rewards are great.

and new technologies to help you live healthier, more fulfilling lives, it is the professionals at Grande Ronde Hospital that are our greatest strength. They bring technical expertise and a warm touch to thousands of patients yearly. They save lives daily. The work is demanding, but the rewards are great.

“We’re taking care of the poor, the uninsured, the sick and the injured,” says Dr. Lewis Baynes, an ER physician at Grande Ronde Hospital for more than 20 years. “Every hour is entirely different. You see the whole





spectrum – life and death. At the end of the day you feel like you’ve done something useful.”

Grande Ronde Hospital has grown to become a vital part of the region, with over 400 employees and a payroll of more than \$15,975,047. The indirect impact of the hospital touches many local and regional businesses, as well, just as it did 100 years ago, when the hospital first opened its doors.

As we look to the future, we remember our past. It is our foundation – a mix of bricks and mortar, expert doctors and caring

nurses, inspiring patients, and a supportive community. On this foundation and for the next century we renew our commitment of caring. We will continue to respond to the community’s needs, 365 days a year and provide services that extend well beyond the four walls of the hospital.



GRANDE RONDE HOSPITAL

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Past Board Chairs

1962-1977	David Baum
1977-1981	Glenn Kirkeby
1982-1983	Glen McKenzie
1984-1985	Bill Carey
1986-1989	Bob Wilkins
1990-1992	Bill Hermann
1993-1994	Joe Grover, DMD
1995-1996	Joe Petrussek, MD
1997-2000	Jack Schut
2000-2001	Dale Basso
2001-2002	Denny Swanger, PhD
2003-2004	Pat McCarthy, MD
2005-2006	Dixie Lund, EdD
2007-2008	Bob Messinger

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Steve Spencer, Senior Director Technology Services

Past Presidents

1962-1963	Stan Johnsen
1963-1969	Warren Croston
1969-1976	Lee Johnsen
1976-1977	Chuck Miller
1977-1983	Ed Patterson
1984-Present	Jim Mattes



“There are so many really great people at this hospital, people providing quality health care delivered with kindness and compassion. I feel fortunate to be a part of Grande Ronde Hospital.”

— Dr. Randy Siltanen, Medical Staff President



Photo Credits

Page 5: Horse and buggy - 1911 — Fred Hill Collection; Steam locomotive - 1908 — Fred Hill Collection; Union dentist - 1901 — Fred Hill Collection.

Page 6: Cast Iron Mary - 1909 — Fred Hill Collection; Genevieve Ruth Hanna Rogers, courtesy of Jacqueline Johnson. **Page 7:** High Valley threshing operation - 1910 — Fred Hill Collection; Cove Cherry Festival - 1914 — Fred Hill Collection; Liberty Bell - 1915 — Fred Hill Collection. **Page 8:** St. Joseph Hospital - undated — Fred Hill Collection; Summerville Threshing Crew - 1906 — Fred Hill Collection. **Page 13:** Glen McKenzie, courtesy of The Observer.

Page 19: Dr. Lewis Baynes - 2007 — Grande Ronde Hospital Collection.

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