

The Older You Get, the More Fun History—Because You *Remember* It!

Have you noticed that, as you get older, time seems to go faster and the history of *everything* is more interesting. Some time ago *Mizpah* Noble and Board of Governor member John Hall brought in the photo below and asked, “What was happening in this photo and when did it take place?” Our favorite octogenarian Edward Millar, MD, I told John, would know for sure. Nope! He didn’t have a clue. Maybe Laura Mueller, our medical librarian, might remember, Dr. Millar suggested. Nope! No clue. *Medinah* Noble/Recorder Scott Sonnenberg came to a Board meeting, and I asked him. “Let me check it out,” he said. By golly, he did.



Rare Photograph Mystifies All and Then Reveals Much

The photo was taken in front of the original SHC – Chicago, on June 8, 1980. It was Hospital Day, and the crowd was there for the cornerstone-laying for our current hospital, which was built behind the original hospital. The *Medinah* Chanters and brass band were there for the ceremony—in fact, current *Medinah* Potentate Paul Barber remembers being there as director of the brass band. Scott even provided me the program for the day, which informed people that the cornerstone contained, among many things, copies of the *Holy Bible*, the *Koran*, by-laws of *Medinah*, story of SHC, a 1925 calendar (both Gregorian and

Mohammedan), coins, photographs, essays by patients, listings of staff, Board members, and patients, newspaper articles, and the program for the day. That program (see photo, below) included photos of the various SHC then in existence. These included Boston, Chicago, Greenville, Mexico City, San Francisco, Shreveport, Springfield, and Winnipeg. It announced that Norman R. Bueckner, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Illinois, and his staff of Grand Officers would preside (They are in top hats in the photo.). Also participating in the ceremony were Imperial Potentate Charles J. Claypool and Imperial officers, along with Illustrious Potentates and Divans of the affiliated Temples of the Great Lakes Association. Thomas C. Roberts, Chairman of the Board, Gene Yeazell, Administrator, and Dr. Edward A. Millar, Chief Surgeon (Dr. Millar, you were *there!*), were also present. It was announced that the Chicago “unit,” cost \$11,000,000, there would be guided tours of the hospital, and people would see the “World’s Shortest Parade.” (Some things never change!)



Rare Copy of *The Shrine Magazine* Tells of SHC – Chicago’s Founding

This rare edition of an elegant, national family magazine published by the Shrine between May 1926 and December 1928 carries a brief announcement, “Chicago Unit Informally Opened,” and reports that the eighth Shrine unit was opened on March 20, 1926. *Medinah* Potentate Edwin Mills spoke, and Dr. R.A. White “made an eloquent address on the scope of the Shrine Hospital work.” Our hospital, the announcement reported “is situated on a beautiful and easily accessible suburb, Oak Park.” The Board and Nobles of *Medinah* invited all Shriners “passing through Chicago to visit the unit.”