Adams County Memorial Hospital

The first resident physician on record in Adams County was James Harrison who practiced in Friendship and Barnum in the 1870s. In the late 1880s, W.E. McGowan opened his practice of "eclectic" medicine, which combined homeopathic beliefs with more conventional treatment. Patients were cared for in their home, or if necessary in the home of the physician. To make emergency calls as quickly as possible McGowan—like other country doctors—kept a fast team of horses that he also liked to race at the county fair.

After the turn of the century, Dr. G. F. Treadwell operated what can be called the first hospital in Friendship out of his office on the east side of Main Street.

The county's first "modern" hospital came along in 1937, when Doctors Harry Shapiro and A. J. Harris built a 14-bed brick structure with an "air-conditioned" operating room in Adams. By the end of the 1940s, community leaders were organizing to build a new hospital with the aid of federal funds, county taxes and volunteer contributions. After a number false starts and delays the hospital association, led by Robert Roseberry and Doctor Arthur Weihe, assembled the resources necessary. They were aided mightily by a gift of real estate and funds from George and Mary Polivka. County government also assisted, along with many community people who made contributions large and small. The fund drive climaxxed with the celebration of the Friendship Centennial in 1957. Ground for the new hospital in Friendship was broken in 1958, with the opening dedication ceremony taking place the following year.

In the forty years since, the hospital has made many additions to its physical plant and to the services it provides. In addition to providing essential health care to the community, the hospital is also a major employer, and a positive contributor to the quality of life in the county.

In 1999, the medical staff, all of whom have served for over twenty years, is Dr. Martin Janssen, Dr. Rahmatollah Simani, Dr. Ramakrishnan Sankaran, Dr. Muzaffar Mirza, Dr. Muhammad Esmaili and Dr. Jaleh Esmaili.

The hospital built by Doctors Shapiro and Harris in Adams in 1937.

At a hospital event in the 1960s: Carole Janssen, Dr. Martin Janssen, Governor Warren Knowles, Marcia Weihe, aide to the Governor, Dr. Arthur Weihe.
Above: Hospital Association members at the ground breaking of the new hospital. (l-r), Reverend Sam Robbins, Leonard Picus, Don Hollman, Mary Polivka, Dr. Arthur Weihe, Robert Roseberry, George Ritchie, George Polivka, Harry Spindler, Fred Veeder, Harold Ashworth. Far Left, Hospital Administrator in the 1980s and '90s, Allen Teal. Left: Hospital board member, volunteer and champion of good causes, Clara Rhinehart. Below: the new hospital in 1959.