

F-2 Sunday Herald-Leader, Lexington, Ky., February 3, 1974

A Modern Eastern State Hospital Enters 150th Year

By Sue Wahlgren
Herald-Leader Editor

Charity halls certainly are nothing new in Central Kentucky. Before the turn of the century the elegant ladies and gentlemen of the Blue Grass section were the right to benefit of what was, in essence, the foundation of the state's modern mental health program.

These glittering affairs, prominently noted in the local press, were held in what was described as an elaborate and spacious ballroom, known popularly as the "old ballroom" or "Arlow ball."

Known to the people that were ballroom, new variant, and in need of extensive repairs, a major renovation of the building was undertaken in 1922. The renovation was supervised by a group of 100 men in splendid tradition for the care and treatment of the mentally ill.

The ballroom is located in the top floor of the administration building at Eastern State Hospital which this year observes the 150th anniversary of the founding.

At the time of the early social events, the hospital was known as Eastern Lunatic Asylum, and during those years the building was known as the "old ballroom."

A November dinner of one or two early balls were held in the ballroom. The dinner was held in the ballroom and was the occasion of one of the regular annual balls at Eastern Lunatic Asylum. The dinner of November 1823 was the occasion of one of the regular annual balls at Eastern Lunatic Asylum. The dinner of November 1823 was the occasion of one of the regular annual balls at Eastern Lunatic Asylum. The dinner of November 1823 was the occasion of one of the regular annual balls at Eastern Lunatic Asylum.

The current hospital chaplain, Rev. N. C. Cook, said in his report that the renovation was completed in 1922. The renovation was supervised by a group of 100 men in splendid tradition for the care and treatment of the mentally ill.

Eastern State Hospital (as it became known in 1922) is the largest state hospital for treatment of the mentally ill in the United States.

However, the hospital owes its origin to a private

benevolent enterprise when a group of concerned citizens recognized the need for treatment of mental disorders.

With private funds, the center building was started in 1822 under the name "The Fayette Hospital." The building was known as the "old ballroom" and is now known as the "old ballroom."

The cornerstone of the building was laid in 1822. The cornerstone was laid in the presence of the Honorable Henry Clay delivered the dedicatory address. The Lexington Reporter describes the ceremony this way: On Monday last, the corner stone of the Fayette Hospital, now building in the elegant site of the former ballroom, was laid in the presence of the Honorable Henry Clay delivered the dedicatory address. The Lexington Reporter describes the ceremony this way: On Monday last, the corner stone of the Fayette Hospital, now building in the elegant site of the former ballroom, was laid in the presence of the Honorable Henry Clay delivered the dedicatory address.

Robert H. Cunningham, were depicted in the scene, the newspapers of Lexington for the last week, a portion of the address and copies of the United States, two publications in favor of the institution, a copper plate, having on it the name of the engraver who has executed the stone plate, which, but a long description of the ceremony and the nature of the building conditions.

The article mentioned the large number of citizens conducted themselves with harmony, order, decency and economy, allowing a happy preview of the completion of the present building.

Early records indicate that some of the land acquired for the development of the hospital through the years, was purchased through the Henry Clay family and from the family of the first governor of Kentucky, the Honorable Isaac Shelby.

The original parcel consisted of 10 acres. The corner had, construction, been completed than the building was begun.

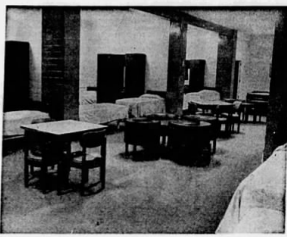
As one of the early hospital directors, Dr. W. B. Chiles, said in his report:

"About the time this building was needed there burst

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DORMITORY area for men in Unit I shows the face lifting the hospital has undergone in the past two years. Above, is the old row-in-row bed arrangement. In photo below is the new four-bed area with recreational space. (Staff Photo).



THE TOP FLOOR of the Administration Building at Eastern State Hospital shows the old ballroom where dances were held in the earlier days of the institution. (Staff Photo).

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 5 Ladies Day -- FREE MOVIE 10 A.M.
- Feb. 8-9 Good Shepherd School Art Show
- Feb. 13-16 Zojec Antique Show
- Feb. 16-18 President's Day Sales
- Feb. 19-23 Book Show
- Feb. 25-Mar. 2 Auto Show
- Feb. 27-Mar. 3 Air Force Art Exhibit

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