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for Special Collections
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ Maumee Valley & William Roche Memorial Hospitals ◀

Records, ca. 1930s-1970s

MSS-249

Size: 8 linear ft.

Provenance: University of Toledo Health Science Campus

Access: Open

Collection Summary: Collection contains correspondence, minutes, scrapbooks, and other documentation concerning Maumee Valley Hospital. Also included are a pair of architectural drawings of Maumee Valley Hospital and William Roche Memorial Hospital, respectively.

Subject: [Medicine and Health](#)

Related Collections: Maumee Valley Hospital Advancement Trust Collection, MSS-255; floor plans and survey drawings for Maumee Valley Hospital and William Roche Memorial Hospital can be found in Toledo State Hospital, Lucas County Infirmary, and Maumee Valley Hospital Architectural and Survey Drawings, MSS-221

Processing Note:

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Completed by: Desiree Swicegood, Spring 2011; updated by Tamara Jones, September 2014

Historical Sketch

The history of the Maumee Valley Hospital begins in 1922, with the sale of Toledo's Municipal Hospital (located at Superior and Lafayette) to Lucas County. The Municipal Hospital became the Lucas County Hospital, which was opened as a branch of the Lucas County General Hospital. One year later, Lucas County Hospital, which would later become Maumee Valley Hospital, relocated to the upper floor of the Squire Apartment Building at Washington and Ontario. In 1931, the hospital moved to a new building on Arlington Avenue, replacing Lucas County General Hospital. It would remain at this location until its closure in 1978.

Over the years, the hospital received numerous gifts from philanthropic groups and individuals. In 1939, Lucas County Hospital received oxygen tents, six "gastroevacuators," a resuscitator, and an Iron Lung. In spite of charitable donations, the hospital still faced financial difficulties. As a result, on May 15, 1943 the hospital became independent from the Lucas County Home Board of Trustees. In 1944, the hospital changed its name to the Maumee Valley Hospital, suggested by Ralph E. Phelps, a member of the *Toledo Blade* staff, in a naming contest. For the remainder of its existence, the hospital was managed by a bi-partisan Board of Trustees. In 1947, Maumee Valley Hospital received a new Iron Lung from the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation.

In its heyday, Maumee Valley Hospital was associated with quality healthcare professionals and facilities. For example, the hospital's Dr. Robert Roberts performed the first microsurgery in Ohio in 1961. One year later, an educational program was established and the hospital purchased a hyperbaric oxygenator (decompression chamber) for the treatment of tetanus and gangrene. In 1964, a pediatric residency was established, and six years later, Maumee Valley Hospital opened the first pediatric walk-in clinic in Toledo. However, in the end, the hospital was unable to maintain itself financially. In 1972, the Maumee Valley School of Nursing closed, followed by the takeover by the Medical College of Ohio that occurred one year later. Finally, in 1978, Maumee Valley closed its doors for good.

Due to the prevalence of tuberculosis in America, a tuberculosis hospital was proposed in Lucas County in 1934. Three years later, the William Roche Tuberculosis Sanatorium was opened adjacent to the Lucas County Hospital (Maumee Valley Hospital). It was a hospital established specifically for the care of TB patients. Because of rising rates of the disease in Toledo in 1949, the hospital actually ran out of room and requested to keep some patients in the old Lucas County Infirmary building. In November 1950, two .3 mill levies were passed to expand the hospital. However, over time, treatments improved and occurrences of the disease decreased, leaving the William Roche Memorial Hospital at a loss for funding. In 1967, their physical therapy unit was discontinued, and one year later, the entire hospital was closed. From 1969 to 1975, MCO used the building for educational purposes. Though the disease had decreased dramatically, there were still a few tuberculosis patients in the area. In March, 1974, plans were made for general hospitalization of these patients. The William Roche Memorial Hospital was not in existence as long as the Maumee Valley Hospital, but it was an important institution that played a significant role in the history of the main hospital.

Maumee Valley & William Roche Memorial Hospitals,
ca. 1930s-1970s

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of 2 large sketches (Lucas County Hospital and William Roche Memorial Hospital), six scrapbooks, and a box of documents containing materials on the Board of Trustees, the Research Institute, the School of Nursing, and correspondence with the William Roche Memorial Hospital. The Roche Memorial Hospital materials are included because the hospital was closely linked to Maumee Valley Hospital, by location and handling of patients.

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Folder List

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		Maumee Valley Hospital Board of Trustees
1	1	Orientation Manual (1968) Index
1	2	Introduction
1	3	History
1	4	Function
1	5	Service
1	6	Research
1	7	Education
1	8	Auxiliaries
1	9	Finance
1	10	Personnel
1	11	Appendix
1	12	Minutes (1950s)
1	13	Minutes (1960s)
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		Maumee Valley Research Institute
1	15	Correspondence (1950s)
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1	18	Financial Statements
1	19	Research Applications
		Maumee Valley Hospital Medical Bulletin
1	20	1966 (Jan. and July)
1	21	1968 (Jan. and Apr.)
1	22	1968 (Sept.)
1	23	1969 (July)
1	24	1970 (May)
1	25	Maumee Valley Hospital School of Nursing Directory (1967-1968)
1	26	Newspaper Articles
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		Maumee Valley Hospital Scrapbook Oct. 1965-Nov. 1967
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3		Scrapbook, Maumee Valley Hospital, 1945-1953
4		Scrapbook, Maumee Valley Hospital, 1967-1968
5		Scrapbook, Maumee Valley Hospital, 1968-1969
6		Scrapbook, Maumee Valley Hospital, 1969-1970

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- 7 Architectural drawing, Roche Tuberculosis Hospital, ca. 1937
- 8 Architectural drawing, Maumee Valley Hospital, ca. 1931