

Methodist Medical Center History Book and the book committee

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column on April 6, 2010)

The last person to convey her admiration for the work done and the people who did that work to produce *The Heart of the Community – Methodist Medical Center – 1943 – 2008* will be Nancy Gray, the team leader:

"A cadre of community volunteers and Methodist Medical Center professionals worked diligently for more than a year to produce the recently published history of the hospital. For such a relatively young town, the history of Oak Ridge is full of noteworthy stories of its past, many that still have never been told in their entirety, including those surrounding our hospital.

"Soon after he arrived to take over the helm of MMC, Mike Belbeck made the astute observation that upon the occasion of its 65th anniversary, it would be an interesting and valuable exercise to chronicle the rich history of Oak Ridge's medical center." [Mike's enthusiastic support for this project was a key element in many aspects of its success. I agree with Nancy, it was refreshing to see him so soon after arriving to show such great comprehension of the importance of our history – Ray]

"Acting on that recommendation, for more than a year, the members of the MMC History Book Committee spent many hours beyond traditional committee work to present the hospital's amazing history to the community. With one exception, Ray Smith, no one on the committee, including the authors, had ever undertaken such a large written project." [Publishing a book is no easy task with many steps required to complete and using a committee makes it even more difficult – Ray]

"Every step of the way, we learned what it really takes to write a book. Never again will any of us look at a published volume without totally appreciating all the blood, sweat, and tears it takes to transform a really good idea into ink on paper - in a factually accurate, interesting-to-read, and visually appealing publication.

"Without the generous contributions of the time and talent of the following committee members, the project would not have been possible:

"MMC Staff Members

"Mike Belbeck - MMC President and Chief Administrative Officer – imagined the wonderful possibilities possible with a written history of MMC to commemorate the hospital's 65th anniversary

"John Galyon – graphic artist at Covenant Health – designed the contents of the book, artfully blending text with graphics into an attractive volume as worthy of coffee table display as it is pleasurable reading

"Mary Sue Greiner – Methodist Medical Foundation, Director of Development - saw the project through all aspects, starting from the original concept; coordinated all contribution activities; still actively involved with promoting book sales and marketing

"Quincey Harrington, Methodist Medical Foundation - superb assistance on oral history component of the project and other duties as assigned

"Kelly Owens, MMC Marketing – go-to gal for in-hospital records and archives; initial file development and layout; liaison with graphic artist on final layout; organized all special events to promote the project, including all the publicity for the book

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"Laura Wallace- Director of Marketing and Communications for the Covenant Health Office of Philanthropy – came on board the committee close to the end of the project to help write the final chapter that detailed MMC's history since it became a member of the Covenant Health family; Laura is a talented writer and her hands-on approach to writing polished the final product until it shone flawlessly

"Volunteer Committee Members

"Pat Clark – co-chair with Bill Wilcox on the Oral History Subcommittee, conducting interviews and organizing committee members

"Nancy Gray – Member of the Methodist Hospital Foundation Board of Directors who chaired the MMC 65th Anniversary Project; worked on all aspects of the project and "kept the ball rolling" for the life of the project using all manner of encouragement for everyone to stay on task. Proud to be associated with such a hard-working, dedicated committee of individuals who took personal pride and ownership in demonstrating to the community MMC's unique and rich legacy and the high level of excellence it has maintained throughout its lifetime.

"Stacy Myers – co-chair with Dr. David Stanley on the Funds Development Subcommittee; worked with individuals and businesses to raise the funds necessary to publish the book

"Bonnie Nestor – premiere wordsmith at ORNL; lent editing expertise all through the book development phase and served as liaison with the publisher

"Linda Smalley – lifelong Oak Ridger and highly knowledgeable about the MMC medical community; disciplined, task-oriented approach applied to researching information, sorting through tons of historic photos, and keen proof-reading eye for catching mistakes, both typos and inconsistent factoids

"D. Ray Smith- expert on early Oak Ridge, great proofreader, and the only one on the committee who had the first-hand experience of seeing a book through to completion

"Dr. Paul Spray – long-time Oak Ridge physician served as the committee expert on the history of MMC from its earliest days; excellent resource for who did what and when; valuable asset in helping Dr. David Stanley get current medical staff onboard to support the project

"Dr. David Stanley – long-time Oak Ridge physician with a passion for the institution; shared his contagious enthusiasm for the project with all current and many past members of the medical community to enlist their support too; dedicated tenacity to the success of the project

"Bill Wilcox – Oak Ridge City Historian and passionate advocate for preserving the history of Oak Ridge; responsible for constructing the framework upon which the book was organized; co-chair with Pat Clark on the Oral History Subcommittee; organized the results of the more than three dozen oral history interviews into a beautiful volume of its own.

"Jeanie Wilcox – lifelong MMC volunteer and first volunteer coordinator for the hospital; served as subject matter expert for early and mid-terms of the hospital

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"Karen Wilken – longtime MMC staff member and subject matter expert for recent and current events at MMC; contributed beautifully written, heart-felt sidebars based on first-hand experience as a MMC staff member; great proofreader too!

"The book was skillfully written by Kay Brookshire. Kay's parents, both medical professionals, met while they both served in the United States Army during World War II, thus giving her a personal interest in the history of MMC, especially its beginnings. She delved into personal interviews and did extensive research to uncover 'small' stories that brought the hospital's history to life. Kay adds new meaning to the expression 'grace under pressure.'

"The effort to produce *The Heart of the Community*, and the wonderful collection of nearly three dozen oral histories that were part of the research for the project and that will ultimately become a part of the City of Oak Ridge Oral History Project, was an undertaking sponsored by the MMC Foundation. As an advocate for MMC, a not-for-profit hospital and a member of Covenant Health, the Foundation raises money to support crucial patient care programs at MMC to support its efforts to expand and improve healthcare for all people in its region.

"The MMC Foundation thanks the following businesses and individuals for their major contributions without which the production of the book also would not have been possible: Methodist Medical Center Volunteer Organization; B&W Technical Services Y-12, LLC; Team Health; Dr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Clary; Dr. and Mrs. Tommy Daugherty; Harold and Elizabeth Davis; The Eye Center of Oak Ridge, P.C.; Hobson Yoder Financial Group; Oak Ridge Associated Universities; ORNL Federal Credit Union; Pathology Medical Associates, PLLC; Pro2Serve Professional Project Services, Inc.; SAIC; Dr. Paul E. Spray; Dr. David G. Stanley; USEC; Vascular Diagnostic Center of Oak Ridge, Inc.; Y-12 Federal Credit Union; Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. Belbeck; Pat and Wayne Clark; Harvey Gray; McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.; Bonnie Nestor and Charlie Crume; and Jean H. Stone. The Foundation also appreciates the contributions of Advanced Management, Inc.; Akins Crisp Public Strategies; Dr. Nawras Baban; Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, Inc.; Barbara T. Barrett; Dr. and Mrs. Stuart A. Chasan; CROET; Jinny and Bob Dunlap; Energy Solutions; Enrichment Federal Credit Union; Dr. and Mrs. Earl Eversole; Richard Gallian; Dr. and Mrs. William C. Hall; Margene Lyon; Mary Lee Y. Merrill; Oral Surgery Specialists of Tennessee; Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Schultz; Dr. Jim Shanks; Dr. and Mrs. Lee A. Smalley; Glen and Debra Weight and the many other friends and supporters of this project.

I hope you have found the story of how ***The Heart of the Community – Methodist Medical Center – 1943 – 2008*** came to be created something that gives you a greater sense of our community and a better appreciation for its history. It was a real honor to be part of the team that created it!

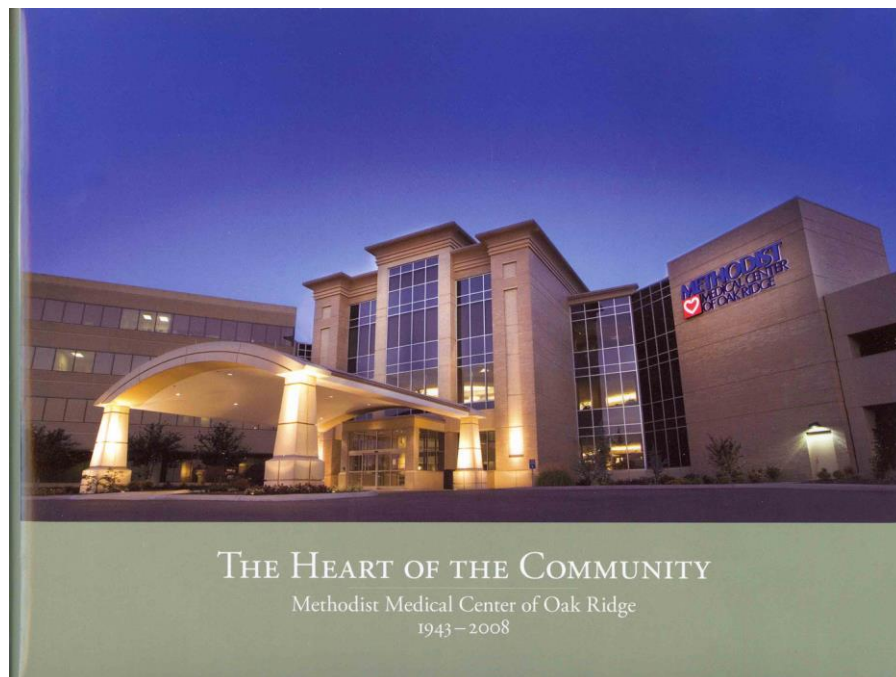
To learn more about how to buy the book and explore the four distinct historical eras of MMC, call the MMC Foundation office (865-835-5262) or order your book online at www.theseecretcitystore.com. All proceeds from sales of "The Heart of the Community" will go to support MMC programs and services.

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MMC history book committee, front row, from left, Stacy Myers, Kay Brookshire, Karen Wilken, Nancy Gray, Dr. Paul Spray, Pat Clark, Bonnie Nestor; second row from left, Mike Belbeck, Linda Smalley, Kelly Owens, Bill Wilcox, D. Ray Smith, Mary Sue Greiner, Laura Wallace and Quincey Harrington. Not pictured but on the committee are Jeanie Wilcox and Dr. David Stanley.



Methodist Medical Center history – book cover