

Providence Hospital

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The American House had been remodeled for use as the temporary Miners' Union hospital. It needed only papering to make it ready for occupancy and the furniture had been ordered.

In May of ¹⁸⁹¹~~1904~~ at a meeting of the Burke Union, a majority decided to pay \$1 per month for the benefit of the Miners' Union Hospital in Wallace.

On May 9, the Miners' Union Hospital was temporarily set up in the American House building on east Bank Street. It consisted of one ward with 6 beds, and by mid-May had two patients. Miners insuring with this hospital could get board, nursing, medical attention and medicine for \$1 per month.

The unions were solvent, and all members of the Mine Owners' Association agreed to protect the new union hospital by honoring wage deductions for the purposes of the hospital. All the major mines belonged to the Mine Owners' Association by that time, except for the Bunker Hill, which was opposed to the hospital being built in Wallace. The Wardner Union joined the hospital federation, and a proposition was made to the Central Miners' Union Trustees by which the hospital would pass into the hands of the Sisters of Charity. Sister Superior of the Spokane Hospital was in the district on May 19, 1901, with a sister from Montreal to look over the proposed site of the permanent hospital.

The June 5 train brought two Catholic Sisters to Wallace, Sister Joseph and Sister Madelaine. Men representing the Miners' Union and the citizens group met with the two sisters at the Carter House to discuss the new hospital. Plans called for a three-story brick building to cost about \$30,000.

Sister Joseph, formerly of the Sacred Heart Hospital of Spokane, was to have charge of the Miners' Union Hospital after the 1st of July, when it was to pass from the Unions' hands into those of the Sisters of Charity. Four Sisters were expected to arrive late in June to constitute the working corps. At that time the contractor would also arrive and start work on a temporary hospital on a portion of the new site. The wooden temporary facilities would be ready in about three months. After the completion of the main hospital, these temporary quarters were to be used as the laundry and a storeroom.

During the middle of June, the Union at Wardner petitioned V. M. Clement, the manager of the Bunker Hill, that the arrangement for paying \$1 per month for medical treatment without hospital facilities should stop and that the same money should be deducted from each man and paid toward sustaining the Miners' Union Hospital in Wallace. There were about 125 names on this petition. Clement's only answer was his offer that the Bunker Hill would donate land and lumber for a hospital in Kellogg to be opened to all who paid \$1 per month toward its upkeep. The rest of the expense would be borne by the other mines and merchants in the Kellogg area. Clement obviously did not want his money going to the Union Hospital in Wallace.

On August 4, notices were posted at the Bunker Hill to the effect that an election was to be held on the 6th by Bunker Hill and three choices were given:

1. To continue the present arrangement;
2. To build a hospital on company ground in Milo (Kellogg) and the company was to furnish lumber and ground and the union was to solicit funds for the expenses;

3. Exemption for hospital deduction upon signing contract with Bunker Hill releasing them from all liabilities for sickness or injury while on the payroll.

The election was held and the miners as a body refrained from voting. One hundred twenty-three other employees ~~v~~oted and 108 of them voted for the foregoing choice number two. As a result of this election, the following notice was posted by Bunker Hill:

"NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES . . . By the ~~v~~ote taken this day, the ticket headed "Wardner Hospital" was carried by a majority of 93. Accordingly \$1 per month will be retained from each employee's pay for the benefit of the Wardner Hospital. As previously notified, any and all employees who do not wish \$1 per month retained for this purpose are not only at liberty, BUT ARE REQUESTED to call at the company's office for their time.

V. M. Clement, Manager

About an hour after this notice was posted at the entrance of the mine, the night shift quit in a body with the exception of four or five men, who were afterward brought out. This closed the mine in which about 300 men had been employed. The mill soon closed down and 65 more men were idle. Superintendent Jenkins said trouble could be foreseen for a long time.

Along with other demands the men demanded the privilege of protecting the Miners' Union Hospital. The 21st brought the end to the strike at the Bunker Hill. It had lasted two weeks. The terms of settlement were that the hospital deductions were to be paid in accordance with each employee's desires.

The Miner's Union Hospital had moved into its ~~t~~emporary quarters on the bench near the mouth of Canyon Creek. The newspaper carried a quarterly report of the Miners' Union Hospital

which listed all the patients for the past three months, and their ills were set out in the article. The patients were treated for injuries suffered in the mines, "lead poisoning," "chills," "neuralgia of the stomach," "congestion of the liver," and other disorders.

In September work on the Miner's Union Hospital had been delayed for lack of building materials. The newspaper referred to it for the first time as the "Sisters' Hospital."

Late in September, the Wardner Union and the Bunker Hill signed an agreement in settlement of a labor dispute there. It provided \$1 per month was to be collected for the union hospital fund. The Union agreed to furnish a resident physician.

In April the Mine Owner's Association released a statement to the Spokane paper in which they stated that the Sisters' Hospital was the only good thing done by the Union so far.

In reply, the Union apologized that its literary ability was not as gifted as that of the hired attorneys of the Mine Owners. The reply chastised some of the mine owners (Bunker Hill) for their original stand against the Sisters' Hospital and for having called it "a Foreign and unAmerican corporation," but who later called it "a noble institution." It added that their stand against the hospital caused much of the existing friction.

During the Mining War of 1892, the Miners' Union Hospital cared for the union wounded.

The Providence (Miners' Union) Hospital in Wallace ended 1892 in the charge of Sister Superior Joseph. Sister Peter was the druggist, and Sister Loretta was the bookkeeper. Sisters Rosalia and Mary Louise had charge of the kitchen, and Sisters Josephine