

# Holy Cross at Deming, New Mexico

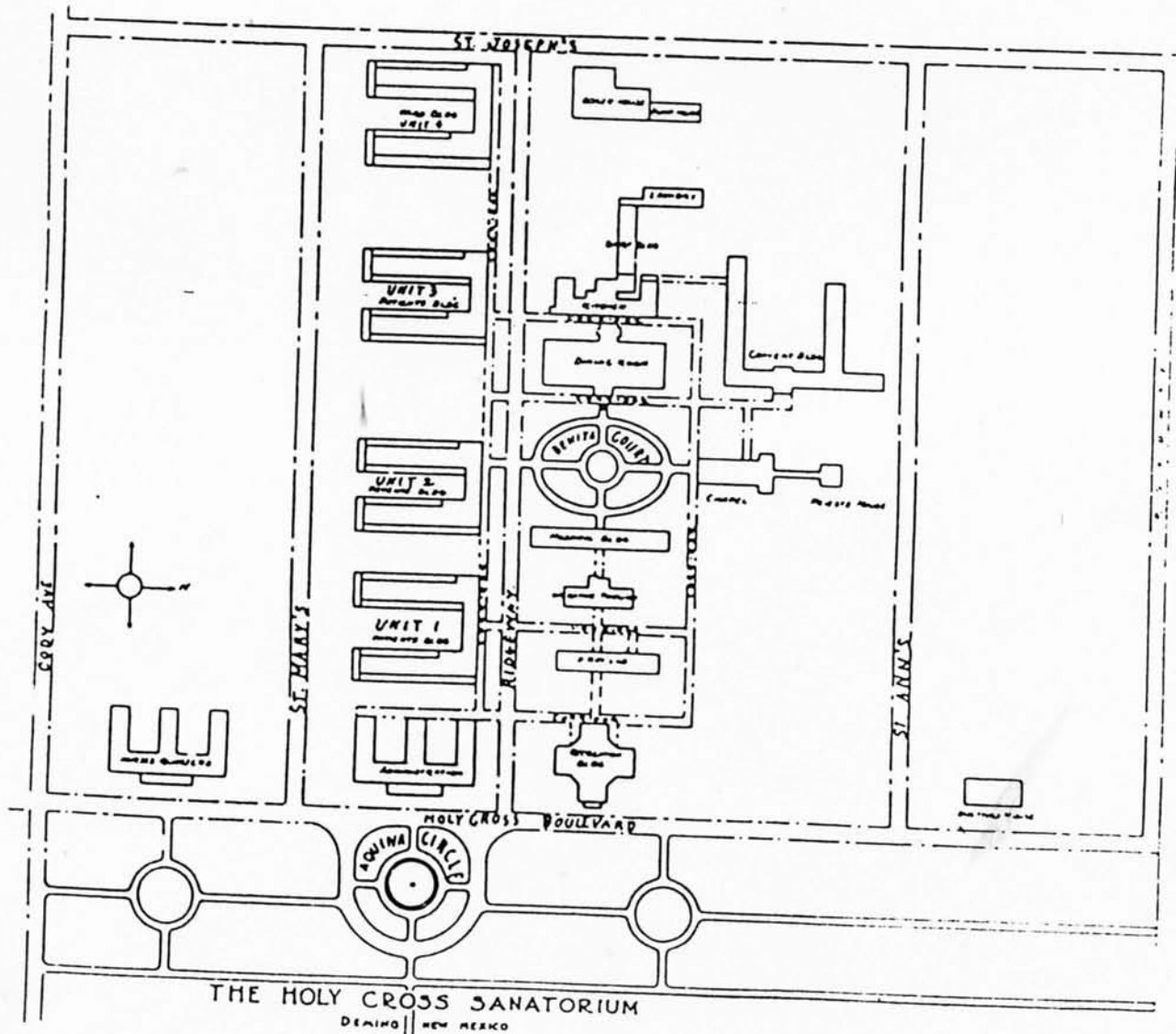
Sister Maria Assunta Werner, CSC

Holy Cross History Association

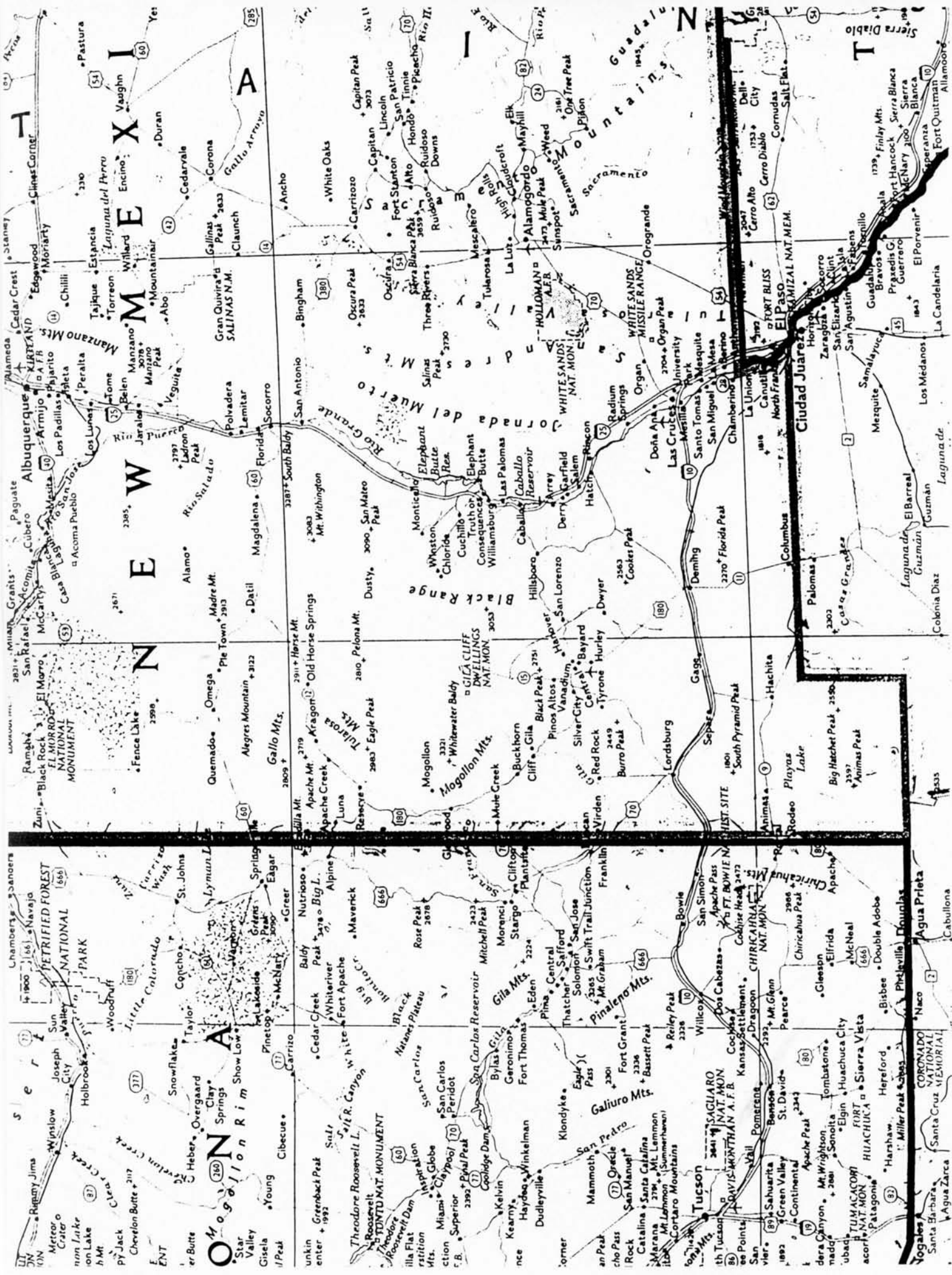
April 7, 1984

Saint Mary's Convent

Notre Dame, Indiana



General Plat Layout of Grounds, Holy Cross Sanatorium



Holy Cross at Deming, New  
Mexico

On May 12, 1923, the Sisters of the Holy Cross dedicated Holy Cross Sanatorium in Deming, Luna County, New Mexico. The Bishop of El Paso, Texas, the Most Rev. Anthony J. Schuler, S.J., officiated. Mother M. Aquina, CSC, Superior General, saw the completion of many months of work.

Mother Aquina had been looking for a suitable place for a sanatorium for Sisters suffering from tuberculosis and when she received a letter from the Rev. G. C. Van Goethem, pastor of both Holy Family and St. Ann's Churches in Deming, asking for Sisters to establish such an institution there, she and her Council agreed to purchase and staff it.

The Sanatorium was located three miles northwest of the city of Deming in the Mimbres Valley. It was surrounded by the Black Range of the Rockies to the north, the Three Sisters to the south, and the Floridas to the southeast. Deming has an altitude of 4330 feet with a mean humidity of 40%, a mean annual temperature between 59.6° and 62.3°, an average rainfall of 10", and at least 330 days of sunshine. The winters are mild and the summers warm but not uncomfortable with cool nights. A few sandstorms blow up in the Spring. The whole valley boasted an unlimited supply of 99.9% pure water, according to government tests. The Sanatorium had wells about 177 feet deep with tanks holding 100,000 gallons each. The water was pumped by both steam and electric power; a booster pump elevated the water to another tank 65 feet higher. There

was plenty of water for use within the sanatorium and for irrigation. The soil was fertile and there was, later, a large vegetable garden. Wild grass, good for feeding cattle, mesquite, yucca, and cacti grew in the surrounding countryside.<sup>1</sup>

The sanatorium had not been built as a tuberculosis hospital.<sup>2</sup> Originally, it had been constructed by the War Department during World War I for military purposes, the structures of temporary nature on land leased from the Chamber of Commerce of Deming and named Camp Cody. The buildings were unpainted frame with substantial walls. They were set on 240 acres of land which the Chamber of Commerce had leased from various individuals and then to the government as a blanket lease. After the war the government was eager to dispose of the property in some way. Its way was salvage. The eighty buildings were in good shape, but there was no longer any use for them. The War Department salvaged some of the buildings, but 40 buildings were turned over to the Treasury Department for hospital purposes and were for the care of tubercular soldiers.

Before the salvage was completed by the Treasury Department, several estimates were gathered about the value of the remaining buildings. In March 1922 R. O. Ferguson, custodian of the camp, wrote to Assistant Secretary of Public Health, Edward Clifford, "(A)t salvage property prices the property and materials here are worth more than \$200,000," a price later considered "ridiculous." Another estimate put the buildings at \$100,000 and if salvaged at \$50,000.<sup>3</sup> A Deming contractor and builder, a Mr. Roach, was asked by Senator Bursum to give his estimate. His opinion was that the government would lose

at least \$2300 in the total salvaging process. J. E. Morgan, another contractor, put the government's loss at \$18,000. In the opinion of both men the lumber would be useful only for building pig-pens and cowsheds, with splinters for kindling.

In March 1922 thirty-five buildings remained on the property, large and small. At the request of the Hon. H. O. Bursum, United States Senator from New Mexico, the Department advertized the property for sale on February 21, 1922, bids to be opened on March 15. In a letter to Mr. Clifford, Senator Bursum wrote,

I certainly do not believe that the public will justify wrecking and salvaging and converting hospital buildings into kindling wood, pig-pens and cow sheds, especially when there is an opportunity to preserve the establishment for useful purposes to serve health seeking people and utilize the same for the purposes for which the construction was originally made. If there were no other alternative, except perhaps to permit the improvements to decay and remain idle, in that event salvage of most any kind providing it did not cost more than was recovered, would be justified. In view of these circumstances, I urge that the sale on the basis on the modified bid is more than justified and that it would be the best of public policy to do so.<sup>4</sup>

The bidder was J. A. Mahoney, acting for the Deming Chamber of Commerce but also the President of the Parish Council of Holy Family Church in Deming. The intention was to arrange with a religious organization to run a hospital for tubercular



patients. Finally, the sum of \$10,000 was agreed upon and paid by the Chamber of Commerce.<sup>5</sup> Mr. Mahoney had the backing and help of the Bishop, Senators Bursum and A. A. Jones of New Mexico, Secretary A. B. Fall of the Interior Department, Governor Merritt C. Mechem, and W. J. Cochran of the National Catholic Welfare Council. Later, the Chamber of Commerce purchased additional land from various owners, for example, E. Dagen of Blue Earth, Minnesota, and B. Watson Points of Covington, Virginia.<sup>6</sup>

Father Van Goethem, the pastor of the two parishes in Deming, had written tirelessly to thirty religious Communities of Sisters in the United States and Canada, some of whom referred his letters to other religious communities; in this effort he had the complete support of Bishop Schuler of El Paso. In his letter, Father Van Goethem extolled the advantages of Deming and of the former camp: the mean temperature, the pure water, the days of sunshine, the altitude, the invigorating air, Serviced by the main lines of the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe Railroads, it was described as "the biggest little city in the world." Deming had an armory, two banks, a high school, three grade schools, a public library, a green house, a tannery, five garages, a modern hospital, two lumber yards, a \$40,000 court house, a tomato canning factory, three wholesale commission houses, nine religious denominations, a wide-awake city council, an ice cream factory, modern and beautiful homes, 25 miles of cement sidewalks, a flour mill, a swimming pool, and on and on.<sup>7</sup>

Father Van Goethem was not satisfied with dreaming of a sanatorium. He envisaged "an Asylum for aged men and women, perhaps with an industrial school for Boys and Girls, maybe, who knows, for various other purposes, 'the greatest institution in the Southern States.' / Of course, this should build up in a simple manner and grow in time as the mustard seed of the Gospel."<sup>8</sup> In these dreams he had more than the backing of his bishop; some of these projections came initially from the bishop himself.

Mother Aquina's notes on the purchase of the property from the Chamber of Commerce include the following observations:

During my visitation of the Western houses from September 15 to December 10, 1921, I was looking out for a suitable site for a hospital for our tubercular sisters in a climate that would benefit them, if not cure, at least prolong their life of activity. On my return to St. Mary's without any place being definitely settled, a letter was received from Rev. Fr. Van Goethem telling of the advantages of the climate of Deming, New Mexico, and stating that the remaining buildings at Camp Cody Hospital nearby were in good condition and could be bought for very little while the ground could also be purchased at a low price. He also quoted the invitation, almost demand, of Rev. Bp. Schuler of El Paso to come to Deming and open this hospital....<sup>9</sup> We accepted the offer but stated that the Chamber of Commerce should buy from the Government and we would buy from them.<sup>10</sup> Negotiations for the purchase of the buildings were conducted mainly through Mr. J. A. Mahoney. The latter part of February he went to Washington, D.C., remaining until April 8th when everything was completed

there, but the property was not turned over until April 26, 1922.<sup>11</sup>

The purchase was made by the Sisters of the Holy Cross Hospital Association, which was approved originally on March 9, 1904, and amended until June 22, 1922.<sup>12</sup>

Father Van Goethem's great joy that the Sisters had purchased the property and were prepared to set up a hospital especially for tubercular patients is expressed in his letter of March 13, 1922, to Mother Aquina.

Thanks be to God and His Blessed Mother for ever and ever! And to the worthy Sisters of the Holy Cross too! From a telegram received from Mr. J. A. Mahoney, we learned with exceedingly great pleasure that the Rev. Sisters' bid for Camp Cody Hospital was the only one received by the Treasury Department and we have concluded therefrom that Deming will be blessed in the near future by the auspicious advent of members of your Congregation. Words cannot express adequately the greatness of my joy at the materialisation of my fondest hope, of my fervent prayer; nor can they express to you and your grand Congregation my sentiments of gratitude for undertaking so gladly the great work before you. My gratitude is mixed with the heartiest wishes for a success that cannot fail, Deo volente! You will be heartily welcome in our midst and deign, Very Rev. Mother, to accept the pledge I make at this early hour to give to you and your work all and every thing, reasonable assistance and cooperation of the very best that is in me, to achieve the success, spiritual and temporal, you so well deserve.

The Parish Councils of the Deming churches recognized the splendid efforts of Mr. Mahoney and passed the following resolution:



Whereas we have learned that the Rev. Sisters of the Holy Cross have acquired the former Camp Cody Hospital, thanks to a large extent, to the efforts of Mr. J. A. Mahoney, President of the Parish Council of the Holy Family Church at Deming, N.M.;

Be it resolved that the Parish Council of St. Ann's Church express their delight at the coming of the good Sisters, extend to them a hearty welcome, and their loyal support.

Be it further resolved to thank Mr. J. A. Mahoney for his successful work in behalf of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

(Signed: Father Van Goethem, Hon. Pres., Blas Teller, President; Juan Marquez, Secretary, and Jose M. Carmen, Councilman)<sup>13</sup>

The first order of business for the Sisters was to raise enough money to renovate the buildings and to construct new ones. The Mortgage and Securities Company of New Orleans was willing to give a loan at  $5\frac{1}{2}\%$  for 10 to 15 years. An evaluation of the property sent to the Company on December 30, 1922, listed 320 acres of land, building alterations, moving and construction, steam piping and conduiting, radiation heating, general plumbing, laundry, telephone, kitchen, operating rooms and furnishings; the estimate was \$513,345.00. A bond was issued on Saint Mary's Academy by the Mississippi Valley Trust Company. After lengthy negotiations the loan was made. In January 1923 A. W. Pollard of Deming<sup>14</sup> and Vitus Jones of South Bend were retained as attorneys for the Sisters.

The architects chosen were Trost and Trost of El Paso, who were to draw up plans for the alterations of the buildings,

and for the new buildings to be erected later. Construction and renovation were contracted to J. E. Morgan, with J. Glazier as Superintendent. Mr. Morgan agreed for the sum of approximately \$300,000 to "move, remodel, refinish, add to, erect and construct in accordance with the plans drawn up or to be drawn up and written therefor by Trost and Trost, Architects."<sup>15</sup> In the course of time Mr. Morgan was paid \$311,757.98, Trost and Trost \$15,587.90, Charles Haney, Maintenance, \$100, 223.27, and kitchen and other equipment \$27,829.79, a total of \$455,398.94.

Workmen repaired the water and sewage systems; a second well was completed by R. D. Sydey (sic), manager of the New Mexico Implement Company. Approximately 100 workmen were employed for the renovations and new constructions. Mr. Morgan had employed a number of men from El Paso, much to the dismay of Father Van Goethem, who wrote to Superintendent Glazier,

Eight weeks ago I made a proposition to you which you cordially accepted: that I would act as go-between between you and the workingmen of Deming; that I would send to you as many as you called for by telephone or otherwise, and that I would give them a card of recommendation with their name and upon which I would state what manner of laborers they are, as I know them, and you, a stranger, do not.

This as explained to you and fully agreed upon, was for a threefold purpose and benefit. One to you, so that you would not be bothered and losing time running about town after workingmen, and would not be inopportuned daily by a score of men looking for a job. One benefit was to the workingmen, who would not need to go out daily,

a distance of four miles to look for a job at your hands, which meant a hardship for them. And also one to me, who could in that manner help my poor deserving families, who are now months out of work and in sore need of a living. You found this plan very practical and beneficial to all.

To this day I have not had one single request to send you a laborer, and on the other hand I have ample proof of the fact that you have employed tramps to work for you; also men with a recommendation in their pockets for which you did not ask, etc.

The very natural result of this disregard for your word and agreement, is that you have made a fool of me in the eyes of the Mexicans under my charge, who obviously conclude that I am a humbug -- if not a liar -- by telling them of our arrangement which panned out to be all bosh....

I do certainly not want to shoulder the blame of this mean piece of business to the detriment of my standing in this community; nor do I want any reflection to be cast upon the good Sisters of the Sanatorium. Therefore, I must acquaint them with the facts of the case, also Mr. Morgan, and particularly my Mexicans, some of whom have already shown me the cold shoulder.<sup>16</sup>

We are not told the outcome of this letter.

Almost immediately ground improvements were begun and a wire fence put around the entire grounds. A large number of trees was planted, a house for 500 chickens built, and a barn for 40 cattle. In April of 1923 trees, grape vines, rose bushes donated through the Chamber of Commerce were taken to the Sanatorium for planting; the Sisters gave public expression of their gratitude not only for the donation but also for the interest of the townspeople in the renovations. When the people

visited the Sanatorium on a Sunday afternoon, people from Deming, El Paso, and Silver City, they were surprised at the size, capacity, and arrangement of the institution.<sup>17</sup>

The Red Cross House, "one of the finest in the United States, erected at a cost of \$23,000," was moved to another position near the wards, to serve as a recreation center for the patients.<sup>18</sup> Another building, which had served as a recreation center for the Red Cross nurses, was moved and converted into a chapel. The old headquarters building became the convent for the Sisters. Other buildings served their original purposes: the dispensary, post office, operating rooms, and others. The operating rooms, "among the finest in the United States," were to be for general use. The general hospital was to be "open," that is, for the use of the general practitioner and surgeon, but the tuberculosis section was "closed," that is, under the direction of the Sanatorium physician. The hospital was to be opened to the afflicted of all races and creeds. Mother Aquina expected sisters, brothers, and priests to be sent by their religious communities or dioceses. The improvements were planned to accommodate 400 patients, but the bed capacity at the time of opening was only for 300.

In December 1922 during the renovations and constructions, a worker, Joven Victor Garcia, was buried under tons of earth that caved in from the side of a trench and, although other workers tried frantically to save him, he was dead when they found him.<sup>19</sup>

Almost a trainload of high-grade linoleum was used to cover all floors in the institution and "would do credit to the finest hotel in the land," according to the Lordsburg (NM) press of March 12, 1923. The initial cost was \$15,000 with freight charges of \$1800.<sup>20</sup>

In the cow barn, each cow had its individual drinking cup, "an arrangement whereby each cow fastidiously dipping her nose down for a drink starts a fountain much as our drinking fountains at school are operated."<sup>21</sup>

An ice manufacturing and refrigeration plant was specially designed and built for the institution. It was one-story 50' x 75' with reinforced poured concrete walls, floors, and ceiling.<sup>22</sup>

Sister Theodorus, CSC, who served at Deming for nine years, recalls the large kitchen with its five walk-in coolers, its tea and coffee urns holding fifty gallons each, the hall leading to the baker's room, the ice cream machine in charge of Sister Alban, and the colored lights in the kitchen like a rainbow.<sup>23</sup>

Sufferers from tuberculosis were already resident in Deming, adding considerably to the town's economy and highly pleased with the hospitality and care afforded them by the Red Cross and the citizens generally, according to F. L. Gilmore, president of the Chamber of Commerce. Typical among the expressions of gratitude from a sufferer is the following:

I have found a place that is not too cold, that is always sunshiny, where the people treat you as one of them and not get "gouged" by merchants overcharging you.



Deming appreciates the people within its gates and seems to take a personal interest in them. I'm for Deming.<sup>24</sup>

Several efforts were made to have organizations or groups sponsor or fund the Sanatorium.

Father Van Goethem had read in the newspaper that the Knights of Columbus in Indianapolis had voted to the American Legion for its War Fund a sum of \$50,000 for caring for veterans afflicted with tuberculosis. He therefore wrote to the National Commander, Alvin M. Owsley, on February 9, 1923, calling attention to the Holy Cross Sanatorium where war veterans would be "gladly received upon a per capita basis or any system the Legion may see fit to submit."<sup>25</sup> In response, Claude J. Harris, writing for Commander Owsley, stated that the purpose of the fund was to return ex-servicemen ill with tuberculosis where possible to their home communities where they might be among friends. Payment for hospitalization was not possible under the limited appropriation received.<sup>26</sup>

State Deputy E. P. Davies of the New Mexico Council of the Knights of Columbus in Santa Fe wrote to Sister Rosalieve, Superior, in answer to her request for financial help,

The idea suggests itself, that it might be well for you to capitalize the psychological condition that prevails and submit a proposal to the Supreme Council to have them adopt your sanatorium and to arrange with you for the care of tubercular patients, as it would doubtlessly be much more economical than for the Order to attempt to establish and maintain such an institution on its own.... The Supreme Physician of the Order, Dr. Buckley of St. Paul, has always been radically opposed to the establishment of the proposed sanatorium, and it would be greatly to your

advantage could you succeed in obtaining his espousal of your cause,... try to induce Dr. Buckley to visit and inspect your sanatorium.<sup>27</sup>

Mr. Davies suggested also that the Deming medical fraternity give evidence of their support and that some prominent Catholic physician like Dr. J. E. O'Keefe of Waterloo, Iowa, obtain approval of the Sanatorium by the American Medical Association. The proposal which he suggested Sister Rosalieve submit he would endeavor to have the State Convention of the Knights of Columbus endorse at its meeting on the first Monday in May.

For some reason Sister Rosalieve did not send a proposal, but Mr. Davies was willing to try to obtain the endorsement at the state convention anyway.

Even though Mother Aquina was not sure that it would be desirable to enter into contract with the government for disabled veterans' care, Sister Rosalieve wrote to the United States Veterans Bureau in Washington. A letter from M. R. Stewart, Acting Officer in Charge, Hospital Services Section, Medical Division, to Sister Rosalieve read,

Your kind offer has been carefully noted, however (sic) in view of the fact that there is a Veterans' Hospital only a few miles from your institution, it is felt that there are ample facilities for the care and treatment of Bureau beneficiaries in your immediate locality. For this reason the Bureau will not enter into a contract with your Sanatorium for the care of its beneficiaries.<sup>28</sup>

What the Bureau seems not to have known is that the Sisters had been receiving applications from at least 400 patients pre-

ferring the altitude at Deming to that of nearby Ft. Bayard Hospital.<sup>29</sup>

Another letter of April 10, 1923, from the Colorado Springs Council of the Knights of Columbus (incomplete and unsigned) reports that the Knights' sanatorium movement was defeated (not known by whom). Moreover, Father Van Goethem wrote from Montreal in August 1923 that the

Hospital matter came up before the K. C. Convention at the eleventh hour, when the report of the Committee, headed and directed by Dr. Buckley, the Supreme Physician was read. As it disfavored the National Hospital idea, the matter was carried over to the next Convention.... Though no resolution favoring the H. Cross Sanatorium was passed, I am satisfied in my mind that your beautiful institution has received a most valuable ad. on the occasion, for we have done it by talking to the Delegates, distributing literature, etc.... and I hope, with God's aid that we will obtain results.<sup>30</sup>

The official opening and dedication of Holy Cross Sanatorium took place on Saturday, May 12, 1923. Invitations had been sent to Bishop Schuler of El Paso, to Governor James F. Hinkle at Santa Fe, to U. S. Senators H. O. Bursum and A. A. Jones, to officials of the railroads: W. R. Brown of the Santa Fe Railroad and T. R. Williams and W. C. McCormick of the Southern Pacific Railroad, to officials of public health at the United States Veterans Bureau of Ft. Bayard headed by Colonel C. R. Leaverton, to state and local superintendents of schools, to Mayor R. F. Hamilton of Deming, to local ministers and physicians, to representatives of the Knights of Columbus, to local judges, newspapermen, and others. The in-

vitiation read

The Sisters of the Holy Cross  
will be pleased to have you as their guest  
at Holy Cross Sanatorium, Deming, New Mexico  
on National Hospital Day, May twelfth  
nineteen hundred and twenty-three  
ten a.m. to two p.m.

At ten o'clock specially invited guests came for a general inspection, followed by a lunch set for 100 persons, prepared and served by the ladies of Deming and their daughters. Table decorations consisted of asparagus fern, sweet peas, and roses. An orchestra from Deming High School, conducted by Miss Marie Stevens, played during the meal.

At the program following the lunch, Attorney A. W. Pollard thanked all the people who had contributed to the establishment of the Sanatorium in Deming. Mayor Hamilton said that Deming was to congratulate itself on the successful opening of the Sanatorium and stressed the permanence of the institution. Rev. J. T. Redman of the Methodist Church in Deming congratulated Bishop Schuler and said he had only one word of regret: that the institution was not Methodist. Attorney A. A. Temke expressed belief that Deming would become the hub for sanatorium sites in the Southwest. Bishop Schuler solicited the help of any person interested in the Sanatorium to come to Deming; he thanked Mr. Mahoney and all the people of Deming.

From three to six about 2000 people were received in the main hall, decorated with clusters of American flags, shown around the institution, and given refreshments. Many

people expressed special interest in the \$24,000 kitchen designed to feed 400 patients at one time. In honor of the opening of the Sanatorium, almost all businesses closed from two to four.

To help with the details of the ceremony, there were a reception committee of 29 women, chaired by Mrs. O. H. Almy, and 32 men, chaired by S. C. Skidmore, a transportation committee of 7 men, a committee of 9 men "to pilot guests through the hospital," and a committee of 16 men to host out-of-town guests. Mother Aquina, Mother M. Pauline, directress of Saint Mary's Academy, Sisters Euphrasia and Josephita of Mt. Carmel Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, were among the Sister-guests present.<sup>31</sup>

One difficulty facing the Sisters was recruitment of staff. In 1922 the Congregation numbered 926 professed Sisters, 236 postulants and novices, including 218 nurses.<sup>32</sup> Between 1922 and 1939, 65 Sisters served at Deming, contributing 274 years of service.<sup>33</sup> Sister Waltrude was the first acting superior until Sister Rosalieve came in December, having finished a course in tubercular nursing at the Glockner Sanatorium in Colorado Springs. Superiors in succeeding years were Sisters Beniti, Ernesta, and Pius. The number of Sisters each year varied from 9 to 27, each serving from one to 16 years.

Besides Mother Aquina and Sister Beniti, the first Sisters to arrive for the staff in April 1922 were Sisters Waltrude, Cirilio, Marcellus, and DeLellis, joined shortly afterwards by Sisters Gertruden, Providena, Ernesta, and Elvira. On the



23d they went to the newly purchased Sanatorium and found the buildings just as the soldiers had left them, 32 in number. They had been uncared for for two years and there were about two inches of sand everywhere. After purchasing bare necessities in Deming, the Sisters returned to the Sanatorium and slept on army cots for two weeks until the beds and bedding arrived from Chicago. The Sisters attended Mass in Deming but requested a chaplain from the Bishop. The first Mass at the Sanatorium itself was celebrated on May 9 by Father Van Goethem, who supplied the vestments and other needs. Mother Aquina and other Sisters set up a temporary altar with an old tabernacle used by the Knights of Columbus during World War I; Father left the Blessed Sacrament. On May 12, following a visit from the Bishop, Father Van Goethem drove to the Sanatorium with the new chaplain, Rev. Felix M. Helta, formerly of Chicago and a cured tubercular patient from San Antonio, Texas.

Other Sisters arrived: Sisters Isabel as portress, Francis Eugene as record keeper, Marcell as cook, Finian as refectorian. A few Sisters came as patients: Sisters Willetta, Imeldine, Ursulyn; others came to visit: Mother Bettina, Sisters Fintan, Amatas, Blandina, Faustina, Vincentia, Gilberta. Some of the Sister-patients died there and were buried in the Sanatorium cemetery.

The prospects for the success of the Sanatorium were unlimited. Everything seemed to be going smoothly and progress was reported yearly in the Archives and in the local newspapers.

The archival material for the first many years is specially rich in detail and some of it can be reported here to give something of the flavor of day-to-day living.

In November 1922 a child was born at the Sanatorium, the son of a staff member, and named Charles Haney, Jr. During October Benediction, rosary, and litany were celebrated every evening, with the Litany of the Saints every morning for the patients. The first Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on First Friday was on September 7, 1923. The first High Mass was sung on March 19, 1925, by the Rev. Charles L. O'Donnell, CSC, Provincial Superior. Later in March the Bishop gave permission for a chapel in the priests' unit where patients could celebrate Mass. In May Benediction and devotions were held in the evening.

In October 1922 several Sisters continued the work Mother Aquina had begun of visiting other institutions: the government hospital at Ft. Bayard, the Cottage Sanatorium at Silver City, and other institutions.

Until March 1923 the patients were served by doctors from Deming until Dr. W. H. Cryer took up residence at the Sanatorium at a salary of \$5000 a year. Dr. Cryer came from Printers Home at Colorado Springs, where he had been resident physician for six years. The Printers Home was owned and maintained by the union printers and was considered the finest institution of its kind in the world.<sup>34</sup> On April 30, 1925, Dr. Cryer left the Sanatorium to be near his ailing mother and to take charge of the new Jefferson Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Birmingham,

Alabama. He died there in April 1926.<sup>35</sup>

Dr. Cryer was succeeded by Dr. M. A. Cunningham, resident medical director. Other members of the medical staff included Doctors F. D. Vickers, Surgeon; P. D. Steed and R. C. Hoffman, Internal Medicine; M. J. Moran, Oral Surgery; J. O. Hatcher; J. G. Moir, Ear, Nose, and Throat; and, from 1931-38, Dr. D. T. Colvard, Surgeon.

The first lay patient was Eugenia (Regina) Wagner, who came from Claremont, Minnesota.

Patients lived in units, lay and religious separately, priests separate from other men. Sun porches extended in each unit so that patients could have the advantage of the warmth of the sun during the days of rest. The units were connected by passages outdoors. In the center of the expanse of units were the kitchen, dining hall, chapel, hospital building, operating pavilion, X-ray laboratory, and recreation building. The convent, administration building, doctor's house, chaplain's house, and boiler house were separate from the units. In addition, there were the cow barns, garages, chicken coops, storage buildings, and the like. The fact that most of the buildings were interconnected by a series of passageways makes the final conflagration more readily understood. (A diagram of the arrangement of buildings is appended.)<sup>36</sup>

In March 1924 the Rev. Eugene Joseph Kenny, a patient formerly from Ireland, died at the Sanatorium and was the first one buried in the newly laid out cemetery.<sup>37</sup> Sister M. Imeldine wrote a poem "In Memoriam," the last stanza of which reads:

O prairie wind blow softly where he's sleeping  
Beside the cross under the open skies,  
And rains of summer, with your tender weeping,  
Make cool the hallowed plot wherein he lies.  
O yucca lilies, tell your beads in falling petals,  
And golden stars shine down upon the sod;  
Reverently silent be, O silent desert,  
Before this soul that has gone back to God.

In May 1924 George Trimel, formerly of Phoenix, was the second one to be buried in the cemetery. The third was seventeen-year-old Mary Grounds, who had asked for baptism with the consent of her mother. A few years later the mother was laid beside her daughter.

When the rodeo or county fair took place in September 1923, the Sanatorium personnel won several prizes: first prizes for canna lilies, zenias, white embroidery, china painting, barred Plymouth Rock chickens, and bronze turkeys; second prizes for white dahlias and crochet. "The people of Deming were amazed at our showing."<sup>38</sup>

In October 1924 the Rev. Van Goethem was changed from Deming to Las Cruces; he was replaced by the Rev. V. C. Yannis.

The first radio at the Sanatorium was put in the room of patient Rev. C. A. Nielan on October 28, 1924. In 1927 the Knights of Columbus of Ft. Bayard donated a moving picture machine, player piano, theater chairs, pool table, and wicker furniture. The first talkie machine came as a gift in July 1933.

In December 1924 the Sanatorium Art Shop opened with tea and homemade cookies. The first day it cleared \$200.00.

Sister Ruth Dolores took care of the shop.

Many social events of Deming groups were held at the Sanatorium. In January 1925 the Rotary Club of about 50 members held its annual banquet with their wives, a costume party, in the dining room. Mr. Voorheesis (Voiers), proprietor of the Southwestern Coca Cola Works, served punch and soft drinks, gratis. "After the banquet dancing was indulged in until after midnight."<sup>39</sup> In May the Junior Class of Deming High School gave a banquet and dance for the Senior Class. And there were many other social events.

Gifts to the Sanatorium were received throughout the years: John Bell gave over two hundred trees: peach, black locust, cottonwood, and redbud. James Kinnear of Kinnear and Hines Drugs gave a pea-hen, which was killed later, probably by a weasel. Donations of books from several academies of the Congregation and from many publishing houses made it possible to set up a library in the reception room. Whether a gift or a purchase, a German police dog arrived from Chicago to protect the poultry farm. The Extension Society of Chicago through Father Helta gave a complete set of vestments, altar linens, and two albs. The Sanatorium's dentist, Dr. M. J. Moran, gave a victrola and several hundred records.

On May 16, 1929, a statue of the Little Flower, given by Mary Sattler, daughter of Saint Mary's College alumna Mary Hines Sattler '99, was blessed by Bishop Schuler and placed in front of the Administration Building. For the ceremony guards of honor were chosen from among the citizens of Deming,



Chancellor Robert O'Loughran of El Paso preached, and there were a procession and Benediction.<sup>40</sup>

In 1926 the Sanatorium received a violet ray quartz glass lamp from the manufacturers in New Jersey to be used in cloudy weather and for special cases.

At least two fires destroyed property, a presage of things to come. In April 1925 a fire destroyed the garage near the steam house, 250 feet of rubber hose, three engines, two pumps, and a Ford sedan owned by Mrs. H. P. Vestal; a workman, Jess A. Rasberry, was taking gasoline from the car when it caught fire. On January 19, 1928, the warehouse burned down. Although there was plenty of water, neither the fire-fighting system of the Sanatorium nor that of the Deming Fire Department was able to put out the fire because it was too far gone before discovery. This building had been used as a drug and narcotics warehouse in the days of Camp Cody.

During its history all seven Sacraments were administered at the Sanatorium. Many baptisms, first communions, confirmations took place; the Eucharist was a daily celebration. In October 1926 Miss Goldie Lane came from Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, to marry patient J. O. Whitted, medical student at the University of Arkansas. Extreme Unction or the Sacrament of the Sick was celebrated many times.

In December 1925 Bishop Schuler gave minor orders to George Walter Caffery, seminarian patient, and ordained him priest three days later. Because he was very ill with two years at most to live, no one was ready to ordain him, neither his

bishop, Bishop Thomas F. Hickey of Rochester, New York, nor Bishop Schuler of El Paso. Neither diocese had funds for his support. Finally, Archbishop Edward J. Hanna of San Francisco permitted his ordination for the San Francisco diocese if Bishop Schuler would not accept him for El Paso.<sup>41</sup> Father Caffery lived to serve at the Sanatorium, to be rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral at El Paso, and to fill other openings. He died in 1979, 54 years after ordination.<sup>42</sup>

Religious profession was celebrated several times; among the brothers was Brother Charles Borromeo, CSC, on July 7, 1927, with Father Joseph Maguire present representing the Congregation.

Beginning in May 1925 the annual retreat of the clergy of the El Paso diocese was conducted at the Sanatorium; Bishop Schuler and 26 priests made this retreat. A newspaperman wrote,

The idea of having a retreat for priests in a sanatorium must not be construed wrongly. Apart from the sanatorium are buildings equipped as well as any hotel in the Southwest and used solely for the priests' retreat and also to accommodate visitors of the patients. The priests on retreat have the exclusive use of their private chapel, dining room, and sleeping rooms. Nothing was spared to make the quarters for the priests comfortable and convenient. The rooms are large and airy; the dimensions being 20 feet by 30 feet, with 12 foot ceilings. Some of the priests would like to stay indefinitely rather than go back to the small quarters in which they are obliged to dwell during the year.<sup>43</sup>

In 1934 a fourth-class post office was established and the name changed to Holy Cross Sanatorium, New Mexico, omitting the name of Deming.

Sisters Anna Regina and Francis Eugene began teaching Sunday school classes at the Church of the Holy Family in Deming in November 1925.

Experiments with the raising of cotton led to the first cotton taken from the Sanatorium to the gin in October 1926.

Sister Theodorus told about the many Mexicans who fled their country during the persecutions of the 1920s. Many bishops, priests, and religious men and women took refuge at the Sanatorium until homes could be found for them in other places. In November 1926 seven ex-religious from Mexico came to work at the Sanatorium. It grieved the Sisters to learn that many people had not been married in a church ceremony until they discovered that it cost \$10.00 to be married in church, only \$2.00 to be married by a justice of the peace. Missionaries charged nothing to perform the ceremony. Many of these marriages were rectified after the Mexicans came to Deming.

Mother Aquina, intrepid pioneer of the Deming foundation, died on May 22, 1927; a requiem Mass was sung for her by Father Helta on the 24th. In 1929 Father Helta was replaced temporarily by Rev. E. J. Hatton and then by Rev. Thomas Tipper.

A training school for nurses was opened on January 30, 1929, with four students and with Sister Ernesta as superintendent. The first class of nurses were Mary Bolak, Edith Rucker, Grover Coleman, and Furman Mason. A banquet was served the graduates of 1933 by the Sisters; present also were the staff and their wives. The 7:30 ceremonies in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, at which Rev. Roger Aull, pastor at

Raton, New Mexico, spoke, were followed by a reception and dance. A few days later, the Sisters gave a banquet for the medical staff to show their appreciation for the staff's interest in the school.<sup>44</sup>

Although the Sisters had not been successful with obtaining veteran patients or in having an "angel" to fund the institution, they were able to sign a contract with the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen in July 1934 for the care of their members as needed.<sup>45</sup> To accommodate these men, extraordinary expenses of the year included laundry presses at \$208.48 and dental equipment at \$167.00.

During the years many distinguished guests came to the Sanatorium, either to be with patients or to see the work of the Sisters there. Besides Bishop Schuler, who was a frequent visitor, there were Archbishop Francisco Orozko of Guadalajara, Mexico, Ex-Governor Dillon and Mrs. Baca, Secretary of State, Rev. John Cavanaugh, CSC, and Rev. Hugh O'Donnell, CSC, Dr. F. Arestad of the American Medical Association, Mr. McKinley of the United States Department of Labor, Rev. John O'Hara, then Acting President of the University of Notre Dame, United States Senator Bronson Cutting, Ex-U.S. Senator Walter Chandler, Archbishop Arthur Drossaerts of San Antonio, Governor Clyde Tingley, Rev. Corcoran, President of DePaul University in Chicago.

Because the Sanatorium was, above all, an institution for the care of the sick, special attention should be given to the quality of care of the patients. Beyond doubt, the Sisters gave of themselves in service at all times. That they pleased everyone at all times would be a utopian statement. From

correspondence retained in the Archives and from interviews with former patients, reactions range from "excellent care" to complaints about lack of care and kindness. Rev. Frank Drummey, CSC, wrote to the Rev. James A. Burns, Provincial Superior, about his brother,

From the very beginning of his sickness until the end, Harry had the best of care. Since everything both natural and supernatural was done that he might get well, and yet he didn't, it seems that God in His wisdom and mercy had decided to take Harry in the spring of his life.<sup>46</sup>

Rev. John C. Kelley, CSC, wrote to the Rev. Charles L. O'Donnell, CSC, that the food was not good -- cold and the wrong kind; he wrote the same things to his Provincial Superior, Father Burns.<sup>47</sup> Brother Vincentius also complained about the lack of care and kindness.

Every nurse or infirmarian should be sick for a year or more before nursing in order to learn the value of thoughtfulness, cheerfulness (sic), simplicity, regularity which are so essential for the sick.<sup>48</sup>

"Everyone has been very kind and my accommodations most comfortable, so that I'm well taken care of," wrote the Rev. Joseph McCartney, CSC, to Father Burns.<sup>49</sup> The Rev. Thomas A. Steiner, CSC, Provincial Superior, wrote to Sister Pius, "You have been so extremely kind to our priests that we are delighted to have this opportunity of showing our appreciation."<sup>50</sup> And after Father McCartney left, Sister Pius wrote to Father Steiner,

It was a pleasure to aid Father McCartney.... We have never had a finer priest at Holy Cross. His splendid example did much to edify religious and seculars. His conduct at all times was above the shadow of reproach and it was a privilege to take care of him.<sup>51</sup>



The General Chapter of July 1937 decreed that the Sanatorium should be closed as of May 1, 1938.<sup>52</sup> Sisters Pius, Gerald, Dolorissima, Ephrem, and Redempta were assigned to stay until the final disposition. Up until the time of this decision, the principal financial burden for the institution had been borne by the Mid-West Province. In a letter to Mother General and her Council on November 4, 1937, Mother M. Lucretia, Provincial Superior, wrote,

The General Chapter of 1931 decided that Deming would be cared for by the General Council with the aid of the three Provinces.<sup>53</sup> Since then no Chapter has placed the responsibility on any individual Province. Up to July 1937, in spite of this fact, the Mid-West Province has been obliged to pay \$99,252.00 on the account of Holy Cross Sanatorium.<sup>54</sup> / Last summer at the General Chapter a futile attempt was made to find out why the burden of Deming became the problem of the Mid-West Province exclusively. The only decision made was that Deming be closed. It was not decided that the Mid-West Province should in any way be responsible for the financial details.<sup>55</sup>

In January 1938 the General Council received a letter from the Rev. Albert Pinckney of New York offering to redeem the Deming bonds through a Mr. Drought at 80%. Mother Vincentia wrote telling Mr. Drought that the Council was depositing \$25,000 in the First National Bank of Chicago but that he was to send the bonds before drawing on the bank and not to ask a commission. Later in January the Council sent Mr. Albert McGann to Deming to see what could be done to sell the bonds. Dr. Drought thought it unfair to have two buyers in the market and withdrew the offer from New York. Earlier, he had asked for some material for ad-

vertising purposes to be sent to him to interest prospective buyers. Mr. McGann was asked to withdraw temporarily because he stated that he had been unable to buy any bonds. In March Mother Vincentia asked Mr. Drought to withdraw from the purchasing of bonds and asked Mother Lucretia to take complete charge of the Deming affairs.

In April 1938 the Council received a letter from Mrs. Marrow, chairman, International Society for Crippled Children in New Mexico, who was looking for a site and was convinced that the Sanatorium would be ideal. She thought the Council might ask for more than the mortgage and Mother Lucretia suggested \$200,000, but the State would give only the amount of the mortgage. Mother Vincentia and Mother Lucretia decided, therefore, to go to Deming themselves to look into the matter.<sup>56</sup>

They went to the Sanatorium in April to negotiate with State officials for the sale of the institution as a State sanatorium. Mr. Fay Guthrie, who was in charge of the Department of Public Welfare in New Mexico, came from Albuquerque to interview the Superiors. He seemed eager to procure the institution for the hospitalization of indigent tuberculosis sufferers but advised that nothing could be done regarding the purchase until after the meeting of the State Legislature in January. He stated that a bill would have to be passed authorizing State officials to undertake the purchasing and operating of the Sanatorium as a State institution. Since nothing further could be accomplished, the Superiors returned to the Motherhouse a few days after the interview. After they had left, Sister

Pius contacted Mr. John M. Dempsey, the State representative in Washington, and advised him of the situation. He promised to go into the matter thoroughly and to use every means to have the Sanatorium purchased by the State.<sup>57</sup>

In an effort to help the Sisters, Bishop John F. Noll of Fort Wayne wrote to the Council that he had talked with Bishop Joseph Schrembs of Cleveland about buying the Deming bonds. Although the debt was \$165,000, Bishop Noll told Bishop Schrembs that he was sure the Sisters would settle for half. Bishop Schrembs himself wrote to offer no hope of anything definite.<sup>58</sup>

Two major difficulties faced the Congregation in keeping the Sanatorium open: (1) there were not enough patients able to pay even the modest rates asked and (2) there were too many calls to take care of charity patients. Each year there was a deficit. Roughly, the rates amounted to \$750 a year for a ward bed, board, general nursing, and medical care, and \$1000 a year for a private room with bath, X-ray, heliotherapy, and pneumothorax, that is, \$14 a week for a ward bed and from \$35 to \$50 for a private room.<sup>59</sup> The register shows that 1047 patients had been admitted from 1923 to 1938. The number of patients varied from 12 to 98. The last patient admitted was on March 4, 1938. Of this group, 147 or 14% died while at the Sanatorium.

In November 1938 Vitus Jones told Mother Vincentia that the Congregation would be bankrupt if all creditors were to close down on it. Mother sent to Jones the letter she intended to send to the trustees for his approval. To W. C. Bitting, Jr.,

of Bitting and Company, St. Louis, Mother wrote,

WE CANNOT CONTINUE PAYING INTEREST ON OUR DEMING BONDS.

... To date our Community has put into Deming \$1,015,775 more than its income to meet expenses there.... Of the Institutions comprising the Hospital Association, excluding Deming's obligations, there is a debt of \$428,496./ ... We want to do the honest and honorable thing as far as lies in our power but as you can see from the figures given you, Deming has practically bankrupted our whole Community.<sup>60</sup>

On March 12, 1939, occurred what Mother Vincentia described as "God's solution to our problem" -- the fire that destroyed most of the major area of the institution. As soon as she was able, Mother Vincentia wrote to Vitus Jones, giving him the details of the fire; she happened to be there when it occurred.<sup>61</sup>

In his report to Carl V. Rutledge, State Agent, Denver, Mr. T. H. Malone, Fire Companies Adjuster Bureau Branch Manager, wrote that the fire was of

unknown cause in some grass and weeds between the wings of the buildings insured as No. 2 and No. 3 in the policy and was discovered soon after it started by Mr. Rhodes, an employee of the assured. Although Mr. Rhodes exerted his best efforts to stop the fire, he was unable to do so before it reached the covered corridors between Wards 2 and 3, and of course after the building caught on fire, with practically no other man on the place Mr. Rhodes was unable to do anything further towards checking the fire. / The Deming Fire Department responded, but by the time they could travel the seven miles distance from Deming, and the buildings all being of frame construction, they were unable to check the fire until it had reached the West Wing of the Patients' Ward insured under the 5th item of the policy.<sup>62</sup>

The insurance in effect on the buildings was \$175,000, on the contents \$40,000; six insurance companies had issued policies on the buildings, three on the contents. The balance due on the mortgage held by the Mississippi Valley Trust Company and K. H. Bitting, Trustees, was \$165,000. On only the buildings burned, however, the insurance was \$137,000. Mr. Malone's letter was sent to each of the insurance agents, also. Mother Vincentia admitted that the insurance, provided the Congregation succeeded in getting it all, would more than cover the account due on the bonds.

Her account of the fire has many details.

The day after we arrived here, the State legislature passed a bill permitting certain State patients to be cared for there. A Dr. Hagood, who pushed the bill, came to see us on Sunday about leasing the place for two years with the intention of buying it at the close of the two years if it proved a successful venture. The day before, Sister Catherine Jerome and some of the Sisters made a pilgrimage around the grounds saying the rosary and burying medals of every Saint in heaven. When they came in Sister Catherine Jerome said, "There will be something doing tomorrow." We went to Mass in the Mexican Church Sunday morning -- the poorest hovel of a Church I ever saw. I was so touched with the poverty of the place and the holiness of the little Spanish priest that I went in after Mass with a little larger donation than I could well afford that day and begged prayers for a special intention. (We were all so afraid of doing or saying the wrong thing in dealing with Dr. Hagood who was to be with us in a few hours.) Father assured us God would show His will in the intention. / Preliminary arrangements were discussed with Dr. Hagood; nothing decided. He promised to return in a few days.



We went to dinner at 12:30, our hearts filled with hopes and fears.... We all then went to our rooms for a rest. At 2:30 I heard terrible shrieking in the hall. It was Sister Ephrem -- all I could get from her was, "Look out the front door!" I did, and will never forget the sight. The whole place was one blaze. We lived in the Doctor's house quite a distance from the San proper. The fire ran from building to building with the rapidity of lightning. We rushed to the phone to find we could get no response from the village. The first blaze injured a main wire and put the whole system out of commission. It took more than 15 or 20 minutes for any one of the men to go to Deming to get a fire engine -- at that time all the fire engines in the State could have been of no avail. Everything burnt to the ground except the Doctor's house and a few outlying cottages. Sisters Pius and Gerald and some men rescued the safe containing records etc. and some furniture.... The insurance will cover the whole loss. Pray that there will be no trouble in the adjustment. / But it was plainly a miracle from Heaven. The adjuster came next day -- seemed pleased with the Sisters' care of buildings and their explanation. He expected me to remain for final adjustment which he said would take a full three weeks -- I insisted that Sisters Pius and Gerald could handle the situation better than I, and he could send me by mail whatever papers had to have my signature. So he agreed to our leaving as scheduled. Help us thank God for everything.<sup>63</sup>

Dr. Hagood offered \$10,000 for what was left of the property, but Mother Vincentia asked Vitus Jones to be careful of Hagood. Jones told Hagood that no one could consider any offer or contract till adjustment was made of the loss.<sup>64</sup>

After Hagood came to see the property after the fire, he



offered Sister Pius \$15,000 to \$20,000 because he admitted there was more property than he had thought. He also wanted to buy the house of Mr. Giraud and offered \$3000 to \$4000 for it. Hagood wanted to set up a hospital with a State income estimated at \$7000 monthly and to salvage the ruins. In dealing with Hagood, Sister Pius showed exemplary restraint and prudence, not wanting to rush into any agreement. She told Hagood that according to insurance schedules buildings and equipment were worth approximately \$44,000, not counting the land, boilers, wells, pumps, and the like. She told him, also, that the Sisters had had an offer for beds and hospital equipment from Dr. Cunningham, from the Socorro Infirmary, and from a bishop on the coast. A Deming man had put in a bid, also, to buy scrap iron from the ruins.<sup>65</sup>

Vitus Jones wrote a somber word to Mother Vincentia.

You are a non-profitable, closed institution, commonly known as a dead horse, and big fires in such places are looked upon with suspicion by adjusters and insurance companies. I think you will find it so in this case. The only saving grace in this case is that the insured is a religious institution. If it were owned by lawyers or bondsmen, the chances are they would be indicted for arson and given the privilege to sue for the insurance and defend against the criminal charges. This is not an exaggerated statement. It is the way of insurance companies.... / The world generally gives the Sisters a better break and extends more courtesies to them than it does to businessmen. You are going to be favored with this situation in the statement of your Deming loss.... / One little prayer will accomplish more than all the worry that ever occurred (sic) in the world.<sup>66</sup>

Looking at the Deming project with hindsight, Mr. Jones made the following observations to the Sisters:

(1) The Deming venture should never have been undertaken in the name of a corporation bearing seven other realty assets (hospitals) having an aggregate valuation of upwards of \$2 $\frac{1}{4}$  millions (and probably other assets as well), every dollar of which might have been exposed to levy under the liability of the Deming venture. What should have been done was to incorporate the Deming undertaking in the name of a single corporation whose only assets would have been the realty and personalty of that sanatorium.

(2) Refinancings of 1926 and 1935 were probably the most expensive way that financial difficulties could have been handled. Repeated bond issues or refundings are expensive processes.

(3) A binding, written contract should have been obtained by the Sisters from the Government in place of a verbal promise to send tubercular war veterans to Deming, upon which promise Deming was largely undertaken and the breaking of which promise contributed greatly to the collapse of that undertaking.<sup>67</sup>

As early as 1933 the Hon. Samuel B. Pettengill of the 13th District of Indiana, which included St. Mary's Academy and College, answered requests for his help in securing veteran patients for Deming, "I want to go to the last extremity of assistance in the matter," and invited someone from St. Mary's or representative to go to Washington to confer with Brigadier General Frank T. Hines of the Veterans Administration.<sup>68</sup> F. W. Lloyd, comptroller at the University of Notre Dame, reminded Representative Pettengill,

At the time negotiations were conducted (April 1922) it was generally understood from various members of the Chamber of Commerce, I believe, that the government would require the Sisters of the Holy Cross to accommodate and care for about 100 veterans of the World War. Accordingly, these good Sisters proceeded confidently to develop and equip this institution at great expense.... For reasons not presently known to us, none of the veterans were assigned for treatment to the Holy Cross Sanatorium, and consequently it was necessary to obtain patients from other sources in order to provide the necessary revenues to carry on the work. They have never been sufficiently large in numbers of paying ability to cover the expenses of operation. For the several years the Sanatorium has been operating, it has suffered an annual deficit average close to \$50,000, which again has been taken care of to a substantial extent by St. Mary's and other operating units of the order.<sup>69</sup>

Mr. Lloyd's estimate of the annual deficit is somewhat exaggerated; a page from the financial reports and summaries of the Deming institution shows the largest deficit was \$37,520.71. When we recall, however, that the institution existed during the years of lean depression of the economy, even this sum is enormous.

The final financial settlement report shows that in 1938 the Deming property was in debt \$165,000. Of this amount \$150,000 was recovered through insurance; the money was placed in a South Bend bank on July 6, 1939.<sup>70</sup>

A month earlier, in June, shortly after the fire, Bishop Noll wrote asking for the Administration Building for his

missionary catechists and for the school which the Sisters had had in Deming. The Council decided to give him a choice of buildings left standing and to sell the rest, but Jones told the Sisters they could not dispose of anything until all settlements were completed.<sup>71</sup>

It was not until 1942-43 that the sale of the property was made final. In February 1942 Mother Vincentia reported to the Council that Mr. Pollard, the Deming lawyer, was negotiating for the sale of property still owned by the Congregation. Mr. Joseph Deckert had secured a purchaser for part of it and paid \$2500 on February 28. It was suggested that this sum be used to transfer the remains of the Sisters buried in the Deming cemetery to Saint Mary's or at least to Austin, Texas. The Council did not favor this move at this time. A little more income came through an accident. Over 10,000 yards of gravel were mistakenly removed from the property by a company believing that it belonged to the adjoining Peru Mining Company. A settlement for \$885 was concluded, Mr. Pollard receiving a fee of \$85 and the rest going to St. Joseph's Hospital in South Bend to furnish rooms for sick Sisters from Saint Mary's. In December purchases of the property were offered including one of the wells. The Council agreed to the sale of all the property except the cemetery, which contained about two acres.<sup>72</sup>

In September 1943 arrangements for the disinterment and removal of bodies of Sisters buried in Deming were made. All but the remains of Sister Clara were transferred to the ceme-

tery at St. Edward's University, Austin; Sister Clara's were taken to Saint Mary's because she had two sisters in the Mid-West Province. The estimated cost was \$780, which was paid with part of the inheritance of Sister Francis Eugene.<sup>73</sup>

When Margaret Kavanagh, sister of Sisters Rosalima and Gabriel Dolores, visited the Deming site in 1960, there was almost nothing to see of what had been a promising institution in 1922.<sup>74</sup> In 1925 the young seminarian longing for ordination, George Walter Caffery, had written in his diary,

Great country! this State of New Mexico, where, it is said, there are more rivers and less water, more scenery and less to see, more cows and less milk, more wealth and less money, than any other place in the world.<sup>75</sup>

His notation, especially about the money, seems prophetic!

In her circular letter of September 15, 1939, Mother Vincentia had written,

One comforting thought that Deming will always bring to us is that the charity extended there to many of God's sick poor since 1922 is entered to the credit of Holy Cross in Heaven's eternal records. Perhaps its financial failure was one of God's successes.<sup>76</sup>

And there the story stands.

Sister Maria Assunta Werner, CSC  
January 8, 1984

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The Archives Office of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana, has an extensive body of material on Deming. Unless otherwise indicated, all references in this paper are from that collection.

<sup>2</sup> Information about Camp Cody was supplied by Colonel David L. Lemon, Chief, Historical Services Division, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, Washington, D.C., and through the Navy and Old Army Branch, Military Archives Division, National Archives and Records Service, Washington. Material covers the Camp from its establishment on July 18, 1917, until it was abandoned in May 1919.

<sup>3</sup> Several letters pertaining to these estimates are in the Archives. This estimate is that of Superintendent of Construction Hector B. McAllister. All estimates were made hurriedly and later discounted.

<sup>4</sup> March 21, 1922.

<sup>5</sup> Letter from S. P. Gilbert, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, to the Chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, U.S. Senate, March 27, 1922.

<sup>6</sup> So helpful was Mr. Mahoney in these tedious negotiations that the Sisters named the property on which the Sanatorium stood Mahoney Park.

<sup>7</sup> Letter to the Rev. Mother General (of various congregations), December 2, 1921, with enclosures.

<sup>8</sup> Letter to the Rev. Mother General of the Grey Nuns of Montreal, November 23, 1921.

<sup>9</sup> In January Mothers Aquina and Cyriaca visited the place, remaining two days.

<sup>10</sup> W. J. Cochran of the National Catholic Welfare Council to Bishop Schuler of El Paso, "It will not be possible for the government to deal directly with the church in disposing of any or all of the buildings. They must be put up at public sale."

<sup>11</sup> "Mr. Ferguson custodian made over the papers to the Chamber of Commerce who turned the papers over to us. We paid \$10,000 for the buildings etc. and for the ground 320 acres @ 15 - 4800." (Notes of Mother Aquina)

<sup>12</sup> The Articles of Incorporation were published in The Deming Headlight, June 23, 1922, by the State Corporation



mission of New Mexico, B. Montoya, Chairman.

13 Copy in the Archives.

14 In a letter to Mother M. Vincentia, Superior General, February 11, 1933, Mr. Pollard wrote, "As the members of your society contribute their services for the benefit of humanity, I have never made a charge for legal services and have acted in the capacity of retained counsel without pay ever since the organization of the institution."

15 Contract between Morgan and the Sisters of the Holy Cross Hospital Association, July 13, 1922.

16 November 17, 1922.

17 "Demingites Visit New Sanatorium," Deming Graphic, April 17, 1923.

18 G. A. Martin, "Sisters Build Big Tubercular Home in Deming Sunshine," El Paso Herald, November 15, 1922.

19 "Mexican Dies in Cave-In," Deming Headlight, December 8, 1922.

20 "Deming Holy Cross Sanitorium a Wonder," Deming Graphic, April 17, 1923.

21 Unidentified newspaper, September 1923.

22 "Ice Plant Completed at Holy Cross San," Deming Graphic, November 20, 1923.

23 Sister M. Theodorus, CSC (1924-33), is in her 90th year at the time of this writing and has a remarkably clear recollection of her years at Deming. Interview by Sister M. Julien, CSC. Other Sisters interviewed by the author are Sisters Dolorissima (1932-38), Georgetta (1930-32), Gerald (1932-39), Helen Rose (1927-29), Hope (1935-36), Juanita (1930-38), Martha (1928-30), Patricia Marie (1930-31), Redempta (1933-39), Rosalima (1927-28), and Vincent Mary (1935-38). Also, Brother Edward (Hyacinth) Sniatecki, CSC (1930).

24 Martin, *ibid*.

25 Father Van Goethem had been a chaplain for the 112th Keystone Division in France during World War I.

26 Letter of February 24, 1923.

27 Letter of April 19, 1923.

28 Letter of August 24, 1923.

- 29 Martin, ibid.
- 30 Letter of August 9, 1923.
- 31 "Sanatorium Opened Formally Saturday," Deming Graphic, May 15, 1923.
- 32 Annual Statistics of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, July 1, 1921, to July 1, 1922.
- 33 A list of Sisters servicing at Deming with their years of service is in the Supplement.
- 34 "Physician for Sanitorium Arrived Here Fri.", Deming Headlight, March 16, 1923.
- 35 "Death of Dr. W. H. Cryer," Deming Graphic, April 27, 1926.
- 36 The passageways made it easier for the patients to be moved from their rooms to the chapel, X-ray building, operating room, and the like, and for the nurses and aides, especially at night, to serve the patients. They also afforded more light and space for resting in the sunlight.
- 37 The plan for the cemetery with the names of some interees is given in the Supplement. After the closing of the Sanatorium, the bodies were exhumed and moved to other cemeteries. Not all patients who died were buried in the Sanatorium cemetery; their bodies were shipped to places assigned by their religious superiors or relatives.
- 38 Archives.
- 39 "Rotarians Had a Celebration at Sanitorium," Deming Headlight, January 23, 1925.
- 40 The statue with its lattice-work was later brought to Saint Mary's Convent, Notre Dame, Indiana, and can be seen in the garden behind Augusta Hall.
- 41 Caffery proposed to Dr. (Fr.) F. J. Zweirlien to ask Archbishop Edward J. Hanna of San Francisco to ordain him. (Father Zweirlien was to give a course of lectures in the summer school at San Francisco.) Zweirlien believed that the Archbishop would not hesitate, since it would in no way obligate his archdiocese. Further, Father Zweirlien suggested that Sister Gertruden (from Rochester) write to Msgr. A. B. Meehan, president of the seminary and confidant and adviser to Bishop Thomas F. Hickey of Rochester, to give him the Sanatorium's viewpoint of Caffery's case, telling the Bishop that Zweirlien had suggested the letter. In July Caffery "passed the test"

of "saying Mass" under Father Helpa's direction. Bishop Schuler came to the Sanatorium but refrained from seeing Caffery. On the eighth day of a novena to the Cure of Ars to obtain his ordination, Sister Gertruden received a letter from Meehan, "...With all circumstances in view, we believe that he should seek adoption and ordination from the Bishop of El Paso, in which diocese he now is.... and God willing, he might after ordination be able to accept some position in the diocese. At any rate, he would not be a burden to the diocese, as he couldn't claim support from the diocese. He has acquired a canonical domicile in the Diocese of El Paso, and nothing more would be required from Rochester except 'testimonial letters'." In a second letter in July, Meehan wrote, "Bishop Hickey is very kindly disposed but feels, I believe, though he did not say so, that since the examination for orders, the conferring of orders, and Mr. Caffery's life in the ministry would all pertain to the Diocese of El Paso, that Bishop Schuler could more satisfactorily handle the case." In August Caffery received a letter from San Francisco, "Archbishop Hanna does not see any reason why you should not be ordained, if your family has a trust fund set aside to provide for your support." If Bishop Schuler could not ordain for the El Paso Diocese, then Archbishop Hanna said he would ordain for San Francisco. (Notes from a diary written by Father Caffery, copy in the Archives.)

42 Obituary card in the Archives.

43 "Diocesan Clergy Make Annual Retreat at Deming," April 24-26. No further data.

44 A listing of course work, hours of credit, and other requirements for the diploma is given in the Archives.

45 A letter from Mother M. Vincentia, Superior General, to Bishop Schuler is in defense of the Sisters' accepting men from the railroad brotherhood; apparently, the Bishop had accused the Sisters of "selling their birthright for a few pay patients." Letter in the Archives.

46 Letter of March 26, 1929, in the Indiana Province Archives, Notre Dame, Indiana, Burns Papers.

47 Letters of December 26 and 31, 1930, same source.

48 Letter of September 21, 1932, same source. Other Brothers of Holy Cross who were patients were Brothers Albeus Clarke, Adolphus Schultes, Matthew Neeson, Lucian Blersch, Hubert Koeppen, Edward Sniatecki, Charles Borromeo Simonet.

49 Letter of June 26, 1937, same source.

50 Letter of September 2, 1938, same source.

51 Letter of September 6, 1938, same source.

52 "'What to do with Holy Cross Sanatorium, Deming, New Mexico?' This question was studied from every possible angle. Our Sister patients and their special hospitalization was particularly kept in thought. A deliberative consideration of the financial status of the sanatorium from its foundation to the present day showed a large yearly loss to the community with no prospect of its ever being otherwise than a financial burden. With this in mind the General Chapter decided to close Holy Cross Sanatorium, Deming, New Mexico, as soon as possible, provided that it can be done so without great financial loss to the Community; to sell it at any time should God so bless us with this opportunity. An efficiency expert is to be engaged. He with members of the General Council are to make a detailed study of the physical plant and expenses connected with closing it whole or in part. If after thorough investigation it should be found that a unit could be kept open for our Sisters at an expense not greater than that to be incurred at another sanatorium for their care, the General Chapter advised for the present only a part-closing of our Sanatorium. The General Chapter accorded the General Council a vote of confidence to carry out any stipulation that the General Chapter by vote had decided; namely, to close whole or in part, or to sell the Sanatorium at Deming, New Mexico." (July 17, 1937)

53 "... the Provincial Houses will send 1/3 of the entire surplus to the Mother House to help maintain the Novitiate, the Scholasticate, the Infirmary, the Home for the Aged, the Foreign Missions, and Holy Cross Sanatorium in Deming." (General Chapter of July 22, 1931, Mother M. Francis Clare, Superior General)

54 On July 8, 1936, the General Council decided that the \$15,000 surplus received from the Mid-West Province was to be made as a loan to the Province to purchase as many of the Deming notes as were available then.

55 Archives and notes of the General Council.

56 Minutes of the General Council January 8, 1938, January 27, February 24, March 10, March 31, and April 7.

57 Archives: letters.

58 Minutes of the General Council October 27, 1938, November 3, November 20.

59 "A New Dispensation of Hope," Holy Cross Courier, I:5f.+.

60 Letter November 1, 1938, Minutes of the General Council November 3.

61 March 24, 1939.

- 62 March 14, 1939. Other accounts name Mr. Burke and not Mr. Rhodes as the man on the property.
- 63 March 18, 1939.
- 64 Mother Vincentia to Jones March 26, 1939; Jones to Hagood March 24, 1939.
- 65 Sister Pius to Mother Vincentia March 26, 1939.
- 66 March 22, 1939.
- 67 No date.
- 68 February 9, 1933.
- 69 January 25, 1933.
- 70 Circular letter of Mother Vincentia, September 15, 1939.
- 71 Minutes of the General Council, June 15, 1939, July 6.
- 72 Ibid., February 12, 1942, May 21, August 13, December 17.
- 73 Ibid., September 30, 1943.
- 74 Interview October 1983.
- 75 Caffery Diary in Saint Mary's Archives.
- 76 Mother M. Vincentia, CSC, Circular Letters from July 1, 1931, to July 1, 1943. (Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, n.d.), p. 132.







SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS ASSIGNED TO DEMING, NEW MEXICO  
AND THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE.

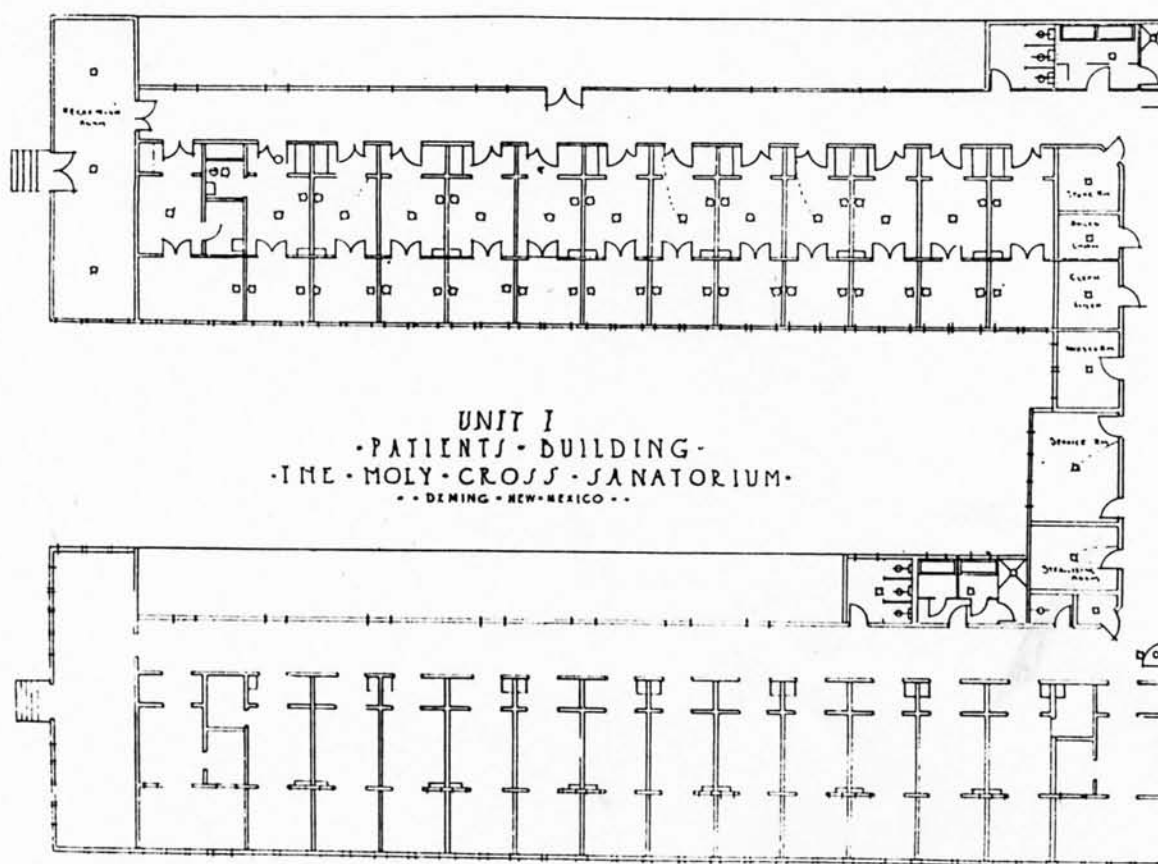
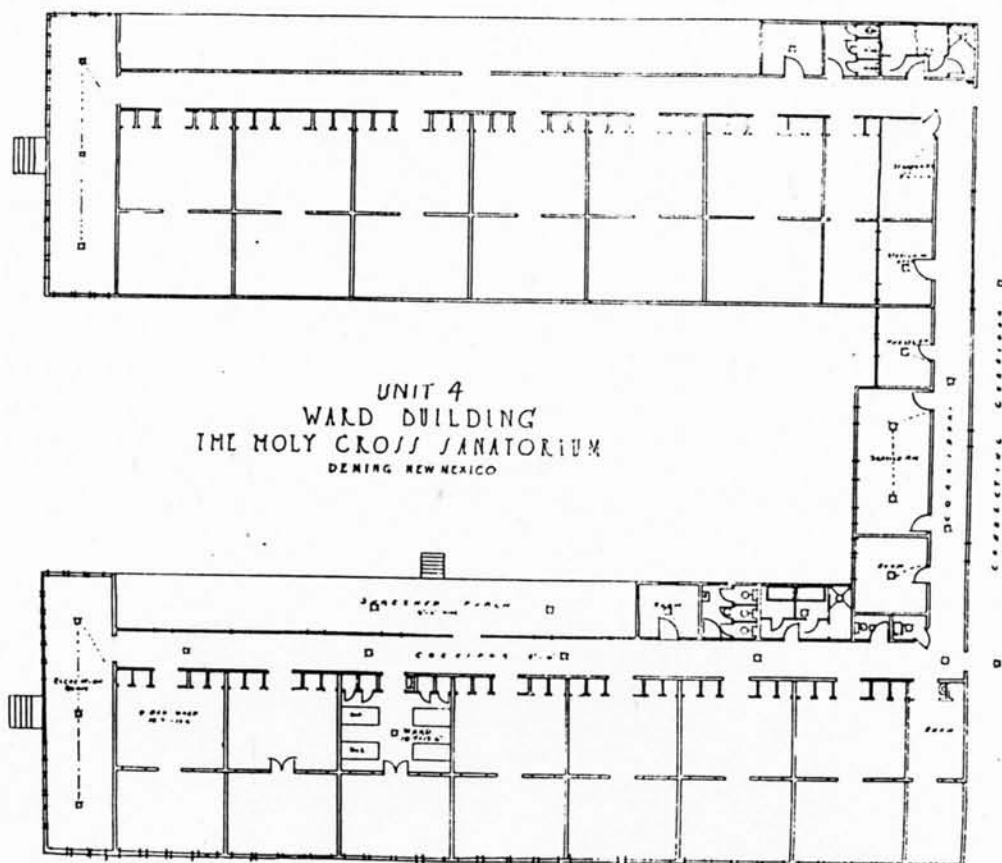
34

Sisters M.

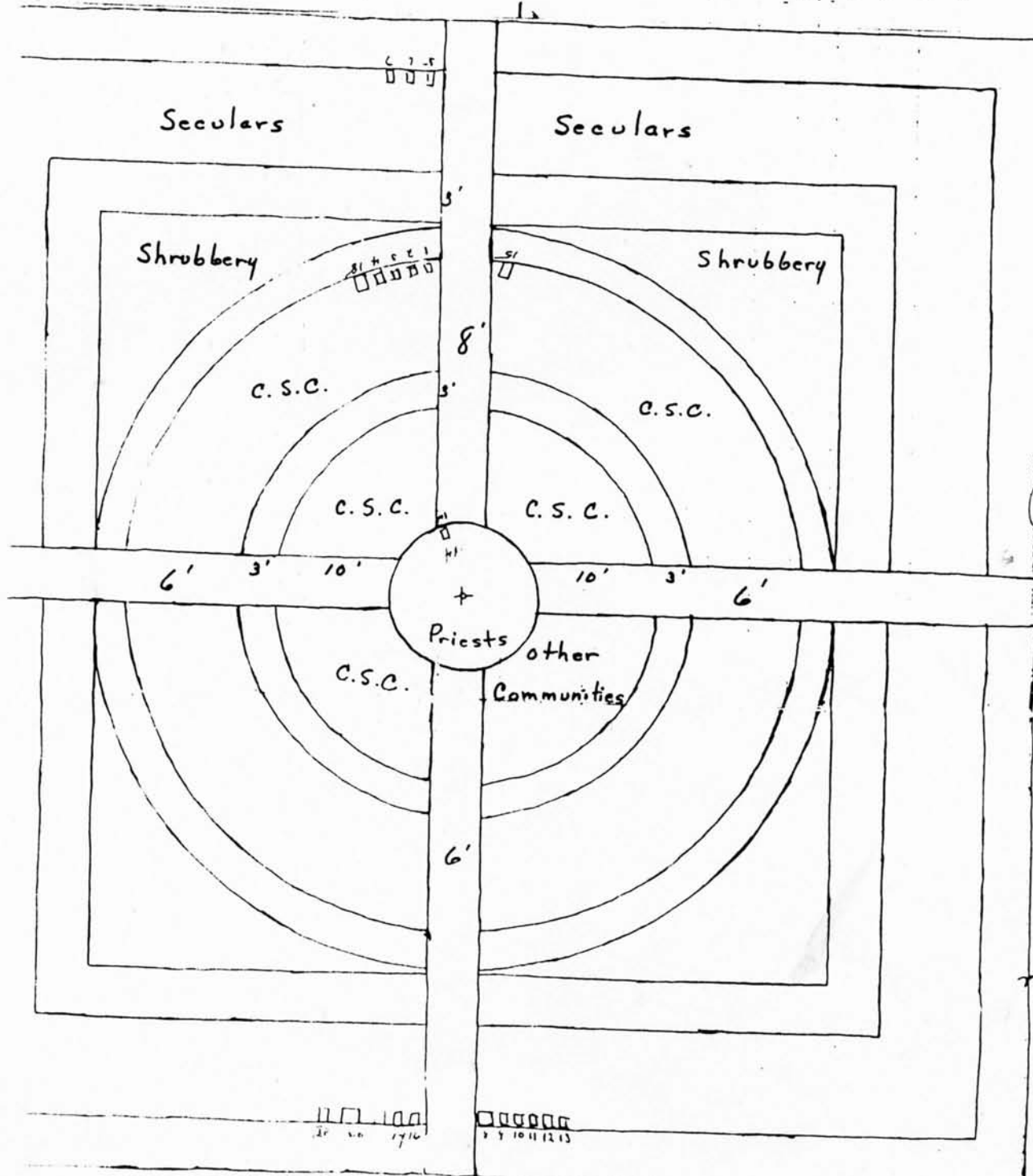
	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39
Adelbert Kohis							X	X									2
Alban Lundergan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			13
Alfreda Nagel	X																1
Alonzo McKenzie							X	X									2
Amalia Plath															X		1
Anna Regina McGlenon			X	X	X	X	X	X									6
Anselm Kirwan										X							1
Aurelius Conkoske											X	X	X				3
Beniti O'Connor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X										6
Bonaventure Dalton																X	1
Cataldus O'Shaugnessy		X															1
Cecilian Keeffe						X											1
Chrysanthus Syndikus								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9
Clarice Cannon	X																1
Columban Murray	X	X	X														3
Cornelia Crowley							X	X	X	X							5
DeLellis Sauheirtl	X	X	X	X	X												5
DeLellis Wright										X	X	X					3
Digna Beresford					X	X											2
Dolores Marie Carter								X	X	X							3
Dolorissima Kullman											X	X	X	X	X	X	7
Edgarina Miller		X	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	9
Ephrem Rajter							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	11
Ernesta Hoyne								X	X	X	X						3
Euphrasia Griffin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									8
Felicia Cummings	X	X	X	X	X	X											3
Finian Burke	X	X	X	X	X	X											1
Francis Eugene Giraud	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X									9
Georgetta Kehoe									X	X							2
Gerald Hartney												X	X	X	X	X	7
Gerard Shore							X	X									2
Gertruden Bissell	X	X	X	X													4
Giovanetta Delhoover								X									1
Helen Rose Mulligan						X	X										2

65 Waltrude Adelsperger





# The Cemetery



- 1 2x m *imperfecta*. L.S.C.  
 3 2x m *st. liliif.* L.S.C.  
 2 2x m *fulva*. L.S.C.  
 4 2x m *araboli*. L.S.C.  
 5 2x m *P. Trinitatis*.  
 6 2x m *Patricii*. Linn. Arab.  
 7 2x m *innocita*.  
 8 many grounds & Western  
 9 *meissel* f. *Croce*.  
 10 *first Lynch*.  
 11 *Margaret Kelly*.  
 12 *Mike Komenik*.  
 13 *Addie Powell*.  
 14 *Riv. C. J. Kurny*.  
 15 2x m *St. Anna* *lychn*, C.S.C.  
 16 *John Kyrne*.  
 17 *John Nelson*.  
 18 *St. Clara* L.S.C.  
 19 *St. Michael*. (Kyrne f.)  
 20 *St. Mary*.  
 21 *St. Francis*. *Russell*.  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25