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Campus Health Centers

Peggy L. Roske

College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, proske@csbsju.edu

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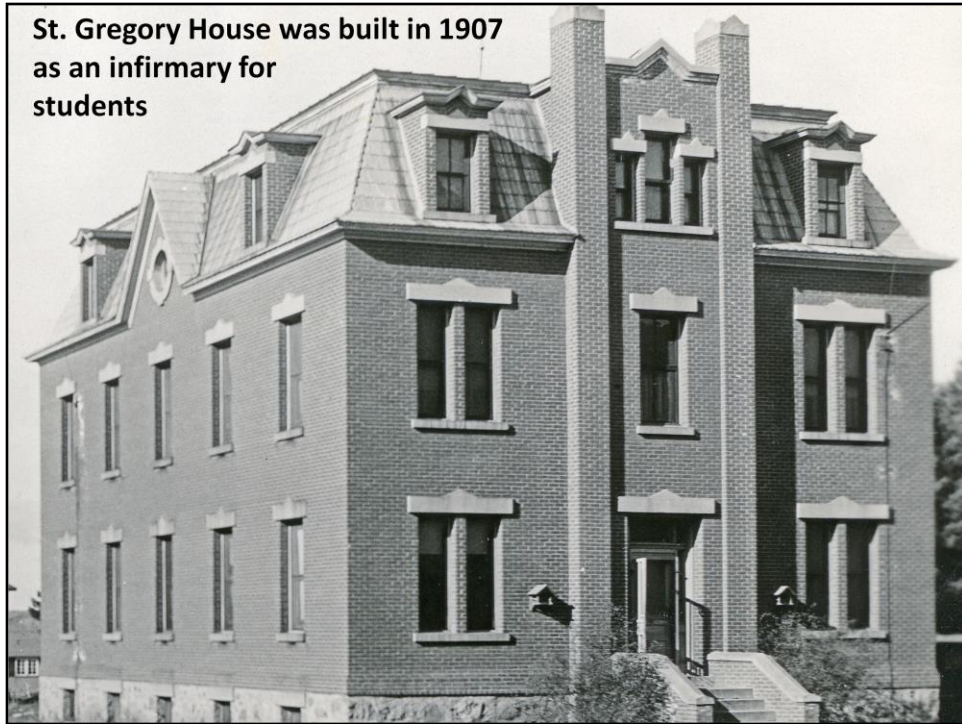
Campus Health Centers



**Rule of St. Benedict, Chapter XXXVI,
ON THE SICK BRETHREN:**

**“Before all things and above all things,
care must be taken of the sick, so that
they will be served as if they were Christ
in person...”**

A history of the health benefits or health centers on the two campuses is yet to be written. Here are a few tidbits I could find in a limited amount of time. (The Rule was quoted in <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?CSBArchNews,343> “Is there a doctor in the house?” Feb. 19 1971 p. 3)



St. Gregory House

“Greg House” was built in 1907 as an infirmary for students, and named after its architect, Gregory Steil, OSB.

When it was first built, a solid brick wall divided the building in half so that the contagious diseases could be treated in quarantine.

The first patient was admitted on March 27, 1908. (from the building description on the SJU Archives website)



Greg House in 2006

In December, 1885, the sisters purchased a newly erected building on Ninth Avenue from John Kropp for \$2,000 and by February announced the opening of the hospital under the name of St. Benedict's Hospital.



1885 - First St. Cloud hospital,
run by the nuns on 9th Ave. North <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u?SBM,58>
(St. Raphael's hospital eventually replaced this one – it was also on 9th Ave. North.)



St. Cloud Hospital

The sisters went on to found this and many other hospitals.

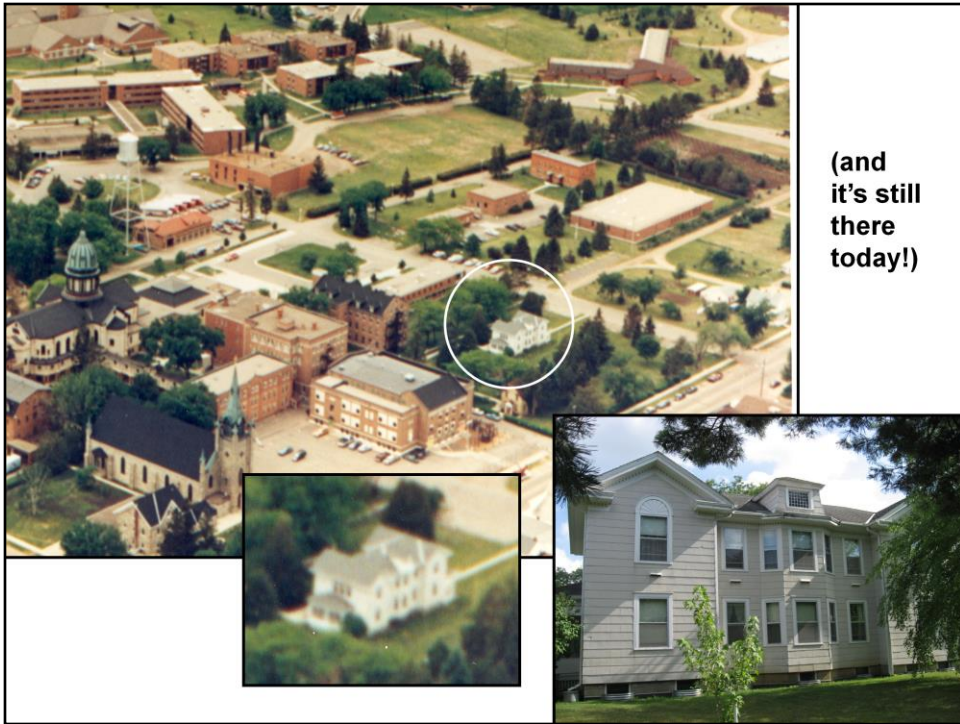
Aerial view of St. Cloud Hospital, 1928 - <http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?SBM,980>



St. Ben's builds a separate student infirmary, 1903

"Because of its segregation from other buildings, it was ideal for isolating patients with contagious diseases; hence dubbed the "**pest house**."

A few years after it was built, more than 100 students and candidates were stricken in the diphtheria epidemic.



(and
it's still
there
today!)

St. Ben's Informary – still here today

This building still exists today. It was moved closer to Minnesota Street and renovated for use as the convent guest house.”

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?SBM,33>

Since 1908 Infirmary offers . . .

SOLACE TO THE INFIRM

"The infirmary has its own doctor who is on emergency call at all times. He is the new and highly popular Dr. William Davidson, who has his residence in St. Joseph, where he cares for the convent and student body at St. Benedict's and the townspeople of St. Joseph. Dr. Davidson is at the infirmary from 1 to 5 p.m. every weekday and also teaches several classes in the college."

"During the recent flu outbreak, ... Miss Connie Durenberger and Mrs. John Gagliardi and three other nurses from St. Cloud helped out at the infirmary."

The Record p. 2



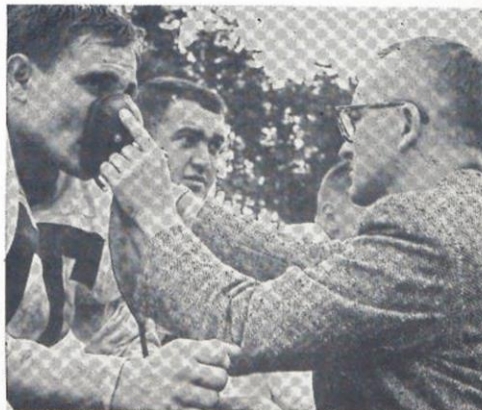
The Schneider Bug Sister Victorine, OSB, reads the temperature of Dan Schneider, who brought the "Schneider Bug" to the St. John's campus and subsequently hospitalized 181 Johnnies. (If Schneider looks healthy, its because he was completely recovered when Norm Virnig took this picture).

St. John's hires Dr. William Davidson

Jump ahead about 50 years; St. John's has hired a Physician, Dr. William Davidson, to teach Psychology and be the campus physician.

In St. Joe, he works out of an office in the big house that's next to Krebsbach Chevrolet – i.e. just east of today's "Millstream Shops & Lofts."

The Record Sept. 27 1957 p. 4



Breath of Air Dr. William Davidson, new resident physician at St. John's and St. Benedict's, is right on the scene during the St. Cloud football game. Here he is administering oxygen to tackle Rog Ludwig, who was busy knocking down potential tacklers that afternoon.

In the same issue:

Dr. & Mrs. William Davidson, St. John's resident physician, are the proud parents of a fourth son, Benedict Gregory, who was born Sept. 6 in St.-Cloud.

Dr. Davidson doctors SJU football team

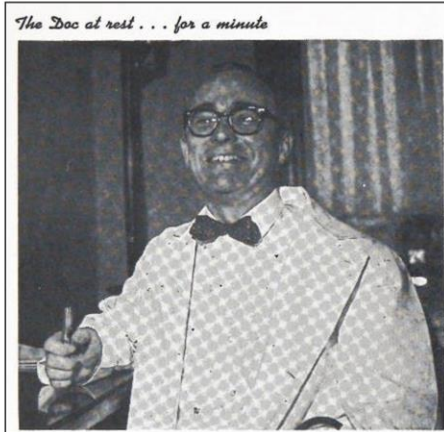
The Record Oct. 23, 1959. p. 4: "Davidson is 'Doc of All Trades'"

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u7/CSBArchNews_30716

"Doc lives in St. Joseph, the hot spot for amateur baseball in Central Minnesota. The local 'Saints' can look forward to ample material in the future, as **five Davidson boys**, one through six, are the beginning of what Doc calls 'my family team.'

To house this active brood, he and his wife have been busy this summer completing **plans for a new home which they hope will be finished next spring. It's being built on a plot south of St. Benedict's** and is designed for 'family living.'

Obviously, the doctor and his family plan to make the two local colleges and St. Joseph their home for some time to come."



Davidson bought the land from the Sisters.



(north view)

Dr. Davidson's home at St. Ben's

He would take patients from the campus in his basement health center.

(Hal's story: When there to check something mechanical, he had to remove his shoes to walk on the roof!)



Team physician Dr. William Davidson ponders gridiron action from bench as Johnnies cheer mates to 36-0 triumph over Gusties.

The Record Sept. 29, 1961, p. 3

Vets Return, Debaters Plan Active Season

● On Wednesday, Sept. 21, the debate team held its first meeting of the 1960-61 school year. Dr. William Davidson, MD, spoke to interested old and new members and gave a preliminary survey of the 1960 national debate topic: Resolved: That the United States should adopt a program of compulsory health insurance for all citizens.

The Record, Sept. 23, 1960, p. 1
<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?CSBArchNews.31881>

Health insurance debated

Even back then, health insurance for all was a debatable issue!

The Record, May 11, 1962, p. 4

Dr. William Davidson's son,
Benedict, age four, died April 13
of injuries resulting from a fall.



Davidson tragedy

He left the campus, and the area, after a tragic accident: their four-year-old son fell off the deck and was killed

(That's the last mention of Dr. Davidson in the student papers, and, ironically, the next time the name "Davidson" appears is almost ten years later, when an October 1971 article mentions a football player named **Ben Davidson**.)

Joe O'Connell, CSB artist, sculpted the headstone for Benedict Davidson, in the St. Joe cemetery: Section 1, Row 7, Lot 114 in the NW section of the cemetery, 2nd row, near the cemetery road. Photo by the Archivist.

Health Service: Fact or Fiction?

By Marilyn Myatt

The health service here has been frequently criticized this year. Many students have expressed the opinion that Dr. Higdon is a "pill pusher." An investigation showed that he may not be so bad after all.

Terry Herzig said, "When you have something wrong he takes care of it. For the Doc's done a good job." Jan Stephenson described him as a very compassionate person. A sophomore liked the fact that you could talk to him about any problem. She also liked the fact that "if he doesn't know what's wrong, he'll send you to a specialist."

There were some complaints. Cheryl Tucker said that "he's never there." She thought that it would be good if we could sometimes use the infirmary at St. John's. This would solve the problem of girls who simply can't

on leave since after calling the nurse. She thought that a nurse should be on duty at all times and that Dr. Higdon should hold more regular hours.

The reason that Dr. Higdon sometimes isn't there on time is that he is in charge of all the monks and students of SJU as well as the sisters and students at CSB. He must be at the St. Cloud Hospital to assist whenever one of his patients needs an operation. We are discouraged from going to the infirmary at St. John's because there you have to pay for every visit to the doctor. Here visits as well as care in the infirmary are covered by a \$15 fee which is included in our payment for board and room.

A mutual arrangement with the infirmary at St. John's might make it so we could visit the doctor in the afternoon there. A solution to the need for emergency



Reflection On Blandness Offers Food For Thought

By Pat Kallhoff

(My thanks to Alice Paine)

It is fear that rules St. Ben's. Fear of the unknown, monks, unmovable.

Little minds and little hearts hide in a blanket of conformity and blandness.

Teachers play games with students who don't even have a passion for the games. Much love for Truth.

Students form rituals, not relationships with one another, so that nothing new and dangerous can disturb their nice little world.

Administrators become caught up in future action, separating themselves from the challenge of here and now, from the real heart of a college, from the students.

"...the doctor is usually in the infirmary, located at the far end of the third floor in the Main building, from about 9 to 11 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday."

Care is covered by a **\$15 fee** included in students' room & board charge.

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/u/?/CSBArchNews.195>

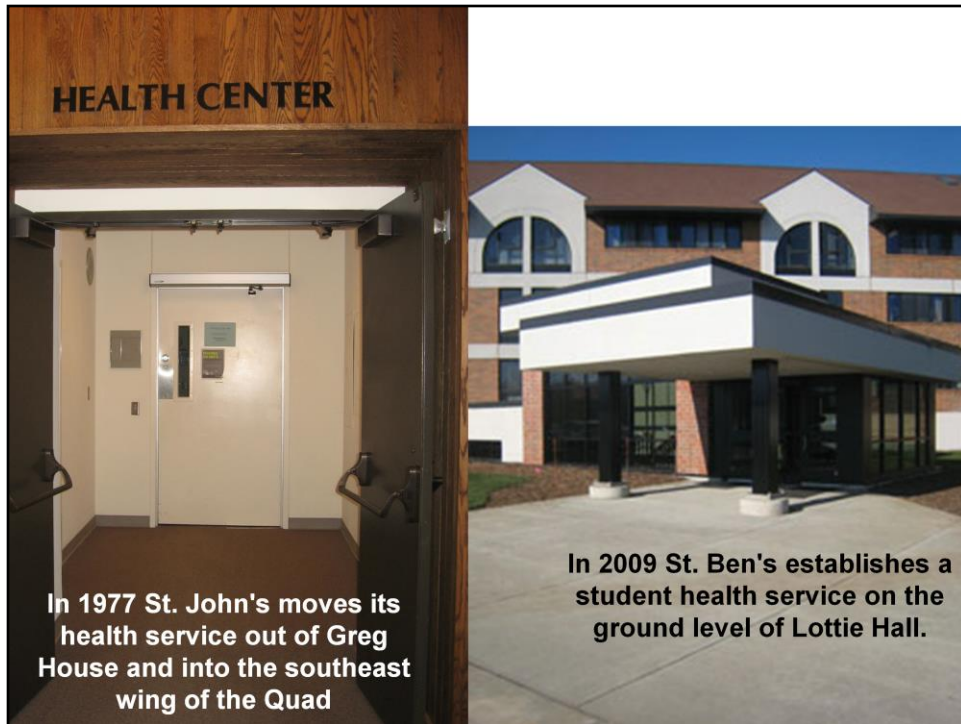
Dr. Higdon serves campuses in the late 1960s

- In the late 1960s, both campuses are served by Dr. Higdon (in Greg House *and* on CSB's 3rd floor Main):

- The reason that Dr. Higdon sometimes isn't there on time is that he is in charge of **all the monks and students of SJU** as well as **the sisters and students at CSB**. He must be at the St. Cloud Hospital to assist whenever one of his patients needs an operation.

- We are discouraged from going to the infirmary at St. John's because there you **have to pay** for every visit to the doctor.

- In the 1970s CSB students are served by the St. Joe Medical Clinic, a few blocks from campus



Later changes

- In 1977 St. John's moves its health service out of Greg House and into the southeast wing of the Quad; Eileen Haeg manages it
- In 2009 St. Ben's establishes a student health service in a new space in the ground level of Lottie Hall.

Campus Health Centers



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Compiled in February 2010 by Peggy Landwehr Roske,
CSB/SJU Archivist

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