A Centennial Event of the UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Variety Club
Heart Hospital
DEDICATION DINNER

March 20, 1951 at 6:30 p.m.
Main Ballroom
Coffman Memorial Union
The Variety Club of the Northwest

"... a little child shall lead them"

On June 6, 1945, the late Al Steffes, theater owner, and former Chief Barker of the Variety Club of the Northwest, Tent Number 12, was in the office of his physician, Dr. Morse J. Shapiro, Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota. Al Steffes was a sick man. He was also a humane man, a man of great sympathy and understanding. In his frequent trips to the hospital, he and Dr. Shapiro discussed his illness—heart disease—and the great numbers of stricken adults and children in urgent need of proper treatment and care. Out of these talks came an idea, an idea for a hospital devoted exclusively to the treatment and study of the diseases of the heart—a Heart Hospital.

To build and equip a modern hospital is a huge undertaking. No ordinary man, no ordinary group of men could hope to raise the funds and devote the time and effort needed to bring it into being. But when Al Steffes presented his idea of a Heart Hospital to the Variety Club of the Northwest, this organization of show people said with characteristic boldness and enthusiasm that it could be done. And, furthermore, they said they were the ones to do it.

In the history of the Variety Club of the Northwest, and the Variety Clubs of America, the parent organization, there was ample evidence to justify their confidence in their ability successfully to carry through such a vast project.

The Variety Clubs of America are as colorful as show business. Members are drawn from all facets of the entertainment world—performers in radio, stage and screen, theater owners, stagehands, theater attorneys. The first club was organized in the late 1920's in Pittsburgh when a group of 11 show businessmen leased a room in a local hotel where they could meet, play cards, tell stories and generally enjoy each other's company. The club continued on this social basis until December 24, 1928, when the finding of a one-month-old baby abandoned in Pittsburgh's Sheridan Square Theatre changed the entire life of the organization.

The owner of the theater, a member of the club, persuaded the group to take care of the infant, provide for its food and clothing, and find it a home. From this single act of charity, the whole broad program of the Variety Clubs has evolved. Taking as their motto "... a little child shall lead them," the Variety Clubs International has grown to 36 "tents" all over the nation, and in Mexico, Canada, and England. Over one-half million children benefit each year from the work of these organizations.

Our own Variety Club of the Northwest, Tent Number 12, is fifteen years old. It started its child welfare program by equipping a projection room at the Glen Lake Sanatorium and supplying complete shows every week. During the depression of the '30's, through its contributions to the Twin City Milk Fund, the club gave aid to hundreds of needy families. In 1939 it contributed $25,000 to aid Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish refugees from Fascist tyranny. In 1944 Tent Number 12 joined in the great crusade against infantile paralysis and in that year presented Sister Kenny with a check for more than $85,000.

But the building of a fully equipped 78-bed heart hospital was a large order indeed. In 1945, with all the zest and energy and high spirits characteristic of show business, the Variety Club of the Northwest began the work of raising funds. Soon other groups in the community came to their aid. The University of Minnesota was part of the project from the first. Other civic and business organizations contributed time and money. But most of all, the people of the state, by their contributions of hundreds of thousands of dimes and quarters in collection boxes in theaters all over the Northwest, provided the funds which were the backbone of the project.

Al Steffes did not live to see the fine day in September, 1948, when the Variety Club of the Northwest presented the University of Minnesota with a check for $300,000 with which to begin construction. In the last three years the Club has raised another $160,000, and it has promised to raise $25,000 each year for the support of the hospital's operating funds.

Today, March 20, 1951, the first patients were wheeled into the bright new corridors of the Variety Club Heart Hospital. This building stands as a tribute to the many men and women, some known, some unknown, who have had the faith and the vision and the good will which has marked all the efforts of the Variety Club of the Northwest.
The Variety Club Heart Hospital —

A dream finds a home

On the north bank of the Mississippi River, curving down the hillside just below the main buildings of the University of Minnesota medical center, is the Variety Club Heart Hospital, the only hospital in the nation devoted exclusively to the study and treatment of heart ailments.

As soon as a patient or a visitor walks through the glass doors of the first floor out-patient entrance, he will find himself in an ultramodern, handsomely decorated and equipped building designed specially to meet the problems of the adult or child suffering from heart disease.

The first floor of the hospital is occupied by the colorful lobby, the administrative offices, the out-patient department, the occupational therapy rooms and the social work offices. The X-ray department, filled with room after room of special diagnostic equipment, occupies the entire east wing.

On the second floor there are thirty-eight beds for adult patients and a patients’ lounge with comfortable furniture and a fireplace. In some of these rooms can be found built-in oxygen supplies for patients in critical condition. On both sides of the long corridor are special hand-railings to facilitate walking.

The third floor is for children. Besides the forty beds, there are special step-down bath tubs, a school room, and an outdoor play deck overlooking the Mississippi River. Here as elsewhere in the hospital, bright friendly colors predominate. Rich browns, reds, and the new Variety Club green have taken the place of white as the principal wall color.

The outstanding feature of the third floor is the beautiful Variety Club Theatre, completely equipped with stage, curtains, light panels, two thirty-five millimeter projectors and one sixteen millimeter projector. Sitting comfortably in one of the forty permanent seats, or in the free area in the rear where wheelchairs may be easily placed, a convalescent child or adult can see the best in film entertainment.

No department of the University of Minnesota is complete without adequate research facilities. The new Variety Club Heart Hospital is fully equipped in this respect, the entire fourth floor being devoted to research into the causes and treatment of various heart ailments. On one end of the building, the American Legion Professor and his staff will investigate all phases of rheumatic fever, the disease that cripples so many children. In the other wing, the Clark Professor and his staff will carry on research in cardiovascular diseases which take such a heavy toll among adults.

About one third of the $1,500,000 cost of the hospital building was provided by the Variety Club of the Northwest, either in the form of contributions from individual members or collections taken up in theaters throughout the Northwest. More than $600,000 in federal funds has been applied to the cost through the Hill-Burton hospital construction act and the National Heart Institute. Miscellaneous gifts, appropriations from various University funds and a $100,000 bank loan to be repaid from the hospital’s income make up the balance.

This could be called a hospital of plaques. They are placed in every room, above each bed, signifying the almost one hundred individuals and groups who contributed $1,000 dollars or more to the equipment and service funds.

The Variety Club Heart Hospital is operated by staff members of the University of Minnesota. An overhead corridor leading from the fourth floor connects it with the main hospital buildings. It is thus an integral part of the University of Minnesota medical center and is designed to fulfill the needs of the state in the same way as do the other departments of the University—through a three-fold program of training, research and service.

The dedication of the Variety Club Heart Hospital coincides with the beginning of construction of the twenty-two-story Mayo Memorial building, which will rise during the coming months near University Hospitals. Each of these hospitals brings to the University a great opportunity to serve the people of the state—directly, by caring for the sick, and indirectly, by pioneering in that medical research that gives promise of life and health to thousands.
As the guests at this Variety Club Heart Hospital Dedication Dinner reach the Minneapolis Campus of the University of Minnesota this evening they will hear the Flemish Bells being played, Miss Peggy D. Smith, carillonner. Guests will be seated in the ballroom as they arrive. Each guest will find at his seat copies of the University of Minnesota Centennial brochure, the Story of Variety, the Dedication Dinner Program, and a place card. All of these may be kept as souvenirs of the occasion. Guests will stand as those to be seated at the head tables enter the ballroom.

As those at the head tables march into the main ballroom, their names and affiliations will be announced by the "Barker of the Day," Mr. Otto Karl Stohr, member of the University Radio Guild. From left to right, those at the head tables are:

Table 1.
Mr. William T. Middlebrook, Vice President, Business Administration; Dr. Irvine McQuarrie, Head of the Department of Pediatrics; Mrs. Ray M. Amberg; Dr. Morse J. Shapiro, Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics; Mrs. Harold S. Diehl; Mrs. Irvine McQuarrie; Dr. Cecil J. Watson, Head of the Department of Medicine; Miss Helen Ferguson, Manager for Miss Loretta Young; Mr. Robert J. O'Donnell, Ringmaster, Variety Clubs International; Miss Loretta Young, First Lady of the Screen; Dr. James Lewis Morrill, President of the University of Minnesota; Dr. Harold S. Diehl, Dean of the College of Medical Sciences; Mrs. Robert J. O'Donnell; Mr. William Elson, International Representative, Variety Clubs International; Mr. William McCraw, International Executive Director, Variety Clubs International; Mr. Arthur W. Anderson, Chief Barker and Chairman, Heart Hospital Committee, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. John Branton; Dr. V. M. Hoge, Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service; Mrs. Albert G. Minda; The Honorable Edward J. Thye, United States Senator from Minnesota; Mrs. James Lewis Morrill; Mr. Marc Wolf, International Chief Barker, Variety Clubs International; Mrs. Morse J. Shapiro; Mr. Ray M. Amberg, Director of University Hospitals; Mrs. Cecil J. Watson; Mr. John Branton, Dough Guy, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. William Elson; Rabbi Albert G. Minda, Chaplain, Variety Club of the Northwest.

Table 2.
Mr. Joseph Loeffler, Board of Directors, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. Benjamin Berger; Mr. C. Fred Hanson, Commander, American Legion, Department of Minnesota; Mrs. Lewis Thomas; Reverend Carl Olson, Chaplain, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. Lowell Kaplan; Mr. George Granstrom, Board of Directors, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. Benjamin Friedman; Mr. Benjamin Berger, Second Assistant Barker, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. Joseph Loeffler; Mr. Charles Rubenstein, Board of Directors, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. William H. Workman; Mr. Thomas Burke, Property Master, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. William Veehussen, Heart Hospital Committee, Junior League; Mr. Harry D. French, President, Minnesota Amusement Company; Mrs. Ben Reemelin, Heart Hospital Committee, Junior League; Mr. Lowell Kaplan, Board of Directors, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. William Stein, President, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Minnesota; Dr. Lewis Thomas, American Legion Memorial Professor; Mrs. Carl Olson; Mr. Benjamin Blotcky, Board of Directors, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. Harry French; Mr. Maitland Frosch, Board of Directors, Variety Club of the Northwest; Miss Jean Struthers, Minneapolis Alpha Phi Alumnae; Mr. William H. Workman, Former Chief Barker, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. C. Fred Hanson; Mrs. Daniel McLaughlin, Minneapolis Alpha Phi Alumnae; Mr. William Volk, Heart Hospital Committee, Variety Club of the Northwest; Mrs. Thomas Burke; Mr. Benjamin Friedman, Heart Hospital Committee, Variety Club of the Northwest.

The invocation will be given by Rabbi Albert G. Minda, Temple Israel. Rabbi Minda, Monsignor John Dunphy, and Reverend Carl Olson are the official chaplains of the Variety Club of the Northwest.

Dinner.
Events

• Movie trailers made by leading motion picture companies in behalf of the Variety Club Heart Hospital will be shown during the final course of the dinner. Starring in the trailers are Abbott and Costello, Alan Ladd, Adolphe Menjou, and Danny Kaye.

• Mr. William Elson, International Representative of Variety Clubs International, will introduce the master of ceremonies, Mr. William McCraw, International Executive Director, Variety Clubs International.

• Mr. McCraw will present Dr. Harold S. Diehl, Dean of the College of Medical Sciences, who will welcome the dinner guests to the University.

• Among the guests of honor who will be introduced by Mr. William McCraw are Miss Helen Ferguson, Manager for Miss Loretta Young; Dr. V. M. Hoge, Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service.

• Speaking for Variety Clubs International will be Mr. Marc Wolf, International Chief Barker.

• The Variety Club Heart Hospital will be presented to the University of Minnesota by Mr. Arthur W. Anderson, Chief Barker of the Variety Club of the Northwest and Chairman of its Variety Club Heart Hospital Committee. Mr. Anderson will take the audience on a guided "tour" of the new Variety Club Heart Hospital and will introduce to the audience certain staff members and representatives of other donor organizations.

• Dr. J. L. Morrill, President of the University of Minnesota, will accept the Variety Club Heart Hospital on behalf of the University Board of Regents.

• The Honorable Edward J. Thye, United States Senator from Minnesota, will pay tribute to the Variety Club of the Northwest.

• Ringmaster of Variety Clubs International, Mr. Robert J. O'Donnell, will present Miss Loretta Young, First Lady of the Screen, Academy Award winner, and representative of the motion picture industry.

• Columbia Broadcasting System, radio station WCCO, presents a documentary from 9:00 to 9:30 p.m. from the stage of the ballroom in a salute to the Variety Club and to the only hospital in the United States devoted exclusively to rheumatic fever and heart disease. Written by Mr. George Grim and produced by Mr. Ed Viehman, this documentary will bring to the radio audience and to the guests in the ballroom scenes from the hospital, portions of this dedication, and episodes in the history of the Variety Club's efforts in behalf of the hospital.

Acknowledgments

Art work for the dinner program by Harold Ehrenholm, University Artists Service; photographs and slides by Warner Clapp, University Photographic Laboratory; lighting and projection supervised by Leland Bauck, Audio-Visual Education Service; dinner by James Felber, Food Service Director, Coffman Memorial Union. Portions of this program are being transcribed for future broadcasts by KUOM, the University of Minnesota radio station.
Every department of the University of Minnesota has three responsibilities—training, research, service. The successful carrying out of these responsibilities requires proper staff and proper equipment. Almost one hundred organizations and individuals have made significant contributions to staff and equip the Variety Club Heart Hospital.

An especially significant contribution was made by the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary. Through money raised at dances and dinners, and through the individual donations of thousands of Legionnaires and their families, a fund of over $500,000 has been accumulated for the endowment of a research professorship for the study of rheumatic fever and heart disease especially as they affect children. Established as a memorial to the American soldiers who served in World Wars I and II, this fund will enable University scientists to continue their efforts to control and, ultimately, prevent disease. Dr. Lewis Thomas, the American Legion Memorial Professor, will conduct most of his research in the well-equipped laboratories on the fourth floor of the Heart Hospital.

While Dr. Thomas concentrates on the heart diseases which affect children, the George S. Clark Professor will be engaged in research into adult heart ailments. This professorship, established in the will of the late George S. Clark, prominent Minneapolis businessman, will be an important aid in the study of high blood pressure and related conditions.

Other generous grants for current research in heart disease have been made by the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation, the Silas McClure Fund, the Minnesota Heart Association, and the Alpha Phi Sorority which is sponsoring a research fellow in the Department of Pediatrics. In addition, a grant for the purchase of heart research equipment has been received from the Minneapolis Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

In a hospital such as this, where patients—many of them children—may be bedridden for months at a time, it is necessary to make special provision for their educational and social needs. A social worker, sponsored by the Junior League will help take care of these problems. In addition, the Hiwayan Club of the State Department of Highways is outfitting the hospital school room, and the Clayton Carmichael Chapter Number 8 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is donating equipment for the third floor play terrace which commands a fine view of the Mississippi River.

Every one of the 78 beds in the Variety Club Heart Hospital has been sponsored by an individual or by a business or civic organization. These donations of $1,000 each will be appropriately recognized by the placing of inscribed plaques above each hospital bed. Plaques will also mark the contributions of the American Legion and many of the other groups who have given so generously to the Variety Club Heart Hospital.

There will be no plaques, however, to mark the contributions of thousands of individuals who put their dimes and quarters into theater collection boxes all over the Northwest. They, like all the contributors to the Variety Club Heart Hospital, will receive no greater reward for their generosity than the sight of sickness changing to health, and despair to hope.
The University of Minnesota —

A century of leadership

THIS YEAR the University is celebrating its one-hundredth birthday. Now, as from the very beginning, it is dedicated to the task of training the youth of today, the citizens of tomorrow. How well it has succeeded is indicated by the number and quality of doctors, lawyers, engineers, social workers, journalists, dentists, farmers, businessmen and community and civic leaders—good citizens all—who have gone from its campuses to work hard for the welfare of the people of our state. Since the first class graduated in 1873, the University has granted more than 100,000 degrees to students who have completed the rigorous training increasingly demanded by the specialization of modern society.

But the University’s task does not end with giving collegiate instruction to some nineteen thousand students on its Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth campuses. In addition, through its Schools of Agriculture, its General Extension Division, its experiment stations and short courses, the University offers training for those who want to study on a part-time basis.

The University’s program of statewide service touches almost every phase of Minnesota life. Its agricultural bulletins and county and home demonstration agents have become a recognized part of Minnesota farm life. The School of Mines and the Minnesota Geological Survey are plowing back the results of their learning into Minnesota’s important iron ore industry—the industry which determines the economic health of the northern part of our state. The staff of University Hospitals—and now of the Variety Club Heart Hospital—is pioneering in the establishment of services to further the effectiveness of treatment of disease and the progress of research.

To its record of leadership in education and in service, the University of Minnesota has added a record of continuing accomplishment in research. In its diverse laboratories on its three campuses, at the agricultural experiment stations, at the Rosemount Research Center, and at the University Hospitals, its scientists at any one moment are working on countless research experiments of vital interest to the future health and welfare of us all. These projects deal with such subjects as cancer, poliomyelitis, taxation, low-grade iron ore, caries control, teacher training, municipal government, nuclear fission, new varieties and strains of grains and fruits, supersonics and transonics, to mention only a few.

The people of Minnesota express their dynamic interest in their University in many ways. Contributions from them have made it possible for the Variety Club Heart Hospital to be completed and dedicated tonight. Through the American Legion and auxiliary posts all over the state, thousands of friends have made generous donations to provide an endowed research professorship in heart diseases. Thanks to the interest and support of the people of the state, the great Mayo Memorial building will be erected at the University over the coming months.

Minnesotans are proud of their University, not because it is among the largest state universities in the nation, but because of the extent and quality of its services from which they, their families, communities, and organizations benefit.

1851 • FOUNDED IN THE FAITH THAT MEN ARE ENnobLED BY UNDERSTANDING • DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING AND THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH • DEVOTED TO THE INSTRUCTION OF YOUTH AND THE WELFARE OF THE STATE 1951
The Variety Club of the Northwest

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Arthur W. Anderson ................................................................. Chief Barker
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George Granstrom Lowell Kaplan

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VARIETY CLUB HEART HOSPITAL COMMITTEE

Arthur W. Anderson, Chairman

Benjamin Friedman John Branton Joseph Finley
William Elson George Granstrom William Volk
How shall we give thanks? So many individuals have contributed so much to the founding of this hospital. The Variety Club of the Northwest, of course, had the vision and the tenacity of creation. But for the rest, for all the men and women, known and unknown, who gave their time, their money, their good will, for all those who were prompted by the human urge to help—how can we thank them? There is only one way—through honest, selfless and sincere service.