

## The Depression Years: 1932-1939

For the medical school, this was a time of survival only, which was true for many institutions during those troubled years. A double blow made progress even more difficult. Not only were grim economic years upon us, but the vigorous leadership of Dean Herman von Schulte stopped abruptly with his death on July 13, 1932 at age 55. He had been a man of vigorous mind, but not body. The science and art of medicine had been making great strides in this century, but the emphasis on good health habits and preventive medicine, which we hear so much about today, was just beginning sixty years ago. A wonderful leader, organizer and an inspiration to others, Dr. von Schulte was also a man of too much girth, who smoked cigars or cigarettes almost constantly, despite an increasing emphysema which made it difficult for him to climb a single flight of stairs.



From the *Omaha Bee News*, July 16, 1932.

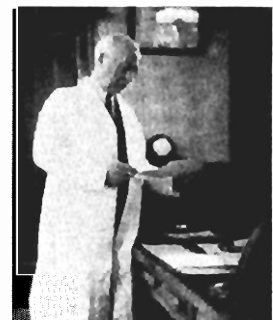


Rev. John J. McInerny, S.J.,  
Acting Dean 1932-33.

Fortunately for the continuing life of the school, he had gathered in, during his deanship, a number of faculty members who were excellent teachers and clinicians. One might have hoped that among this group there would be some competition to step into his position. We do not know that any came forward, but it is theorized by some who have a recollection of those years that these faculty members were already over-burdened with activities. The position of dean in those days was not a full-time job, but something done in addition to other faculty duties. It did carry prestige, but with it a burden of responsibility, and little else to compensate. Eventually a physician, Dr. Bryan M. Riley, was appointed in September 1933, but for the interim year a Jesuit, Rev. John T. McInerny, served as Acting Dean.

### Lean Years

From what is remembered, and little is recorded, relatively few innovative steps were attempted during these lean years of the later 1930's. This was true of Creighton University as a whole, as well as the School of Medicine. Of course, the financial constraints of the depression were largely responsible, but also the University leaders lacked the assertive, dynamic leadership which had been more evident in earlier times. As noted then, "the administrators of the 1930's, most notably the Rev. Patrick J. Mahan, S.J. [March 1931-May 1937] and Rev. Joseph P. Zuercher, S.J. [May 1937-December 1943], seemed comfortable with a low level of advancement."<sup>1</sup> This attitude



Bryan M. Riley (M.D. 1900),  
Dean 1933-39.

filtered down to all levels and colored administrative consciousness throughout the University and, coupled with lack of money, made for lackluster years indeed.

The school year following von Schulte's death showed an enrollment of 298 in the School of Medicine and a faculty of 125, 89 of whom were Creighton medical alumni. The 298 students were from 29 states, plus Hawaii, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The largest single block of students (77), as would be expected, were from Nebraska, but more than a hundred came from the two states of California (60) and New York (46).<sup>2</sup>

Beginning in 1932, the school was operating on a trimester system. The first trimester ran, roughly, from mid-September until Christmas break. The second trimester began in early January continuing until about mid-March, and the final trimester was mid-March until late May or early June.

## The Physical Structure

A glimpse of the physical layout of the school is afforded by the *Annual Announcement* for 1932-33. The south building, which had been the first one constructed, contained the Dispensary on the first floor, and the Physiology, Pharmacology and Bio-Chemistry Departments, offices and labs on the second and third floors. Also on the second and third floors were the social worker's office and supply storage. The Medical Library was on the third floor. The fourth floor contained Anatomy and Research laboratories.

The north building, completed in 1910, contained the student lounge and cafeteria on the bottom floor and administrative offices on the second floor. The Pathology and Anatomy Departments occupied the third and fourth floors.<sup>3</sup> The arrangements remained the same during the entire 1930's decade. For the 1935-36 school year, two rooms were added to the Dispensary, to be used for Surgery and Obstetrics. At the same time, a private lab for the department chairman of Pathology was added, and the dean's office was redecorated.<sup>4</sup> Other than these minor changes, physical arrangements remained static throughout the decade.

The third floor medical library, however, did expand and improve. Several sources for increasing library size were explored during this period. A memorial book fund was established early in 1933. Friends and relatives were encouraged to purchase a volume for the medical library in memory of the deceased and in lieu of a floral memorial. Special recognition was then given to these memorial volumes as a tribute to the deceased.<sup>5</sup>

Also, it became somewhat fashionable to donate the medical library of deceased practitioners (usually alumni) to Creighton. Mrs. von Schulte, widow of the Dean, started the trend when she donated about 2,000 volumes of her late husband's library to the school in January 1933. In addition to the pure sciences and social sciences, it also included a large collection of lecture notes and reprints of articles authored by von Schulte.<sup>6</sup>

Other estates followed suit in donating books. The books of Michael J. Ford (MD 1901), D. W. Graves, J. W. Hellwig (MD 1901) and P. J. Flynn (MD 1899) were contributed to the library.<sup>7</sup> By 1937 the library contained 7,400 volumes and subscribed to 80 scientific journals.<sup>8</sup> Also, faculty members many times donated a volume, here or there, to aid in library development.

CREIGHTON'S X-RAY DEPARTMENT  
Designed with knowledge, Education



View of the X-ray department, showing the patient and the operator. The operator is standing at the control panel, and the patient is lying on the table. The room is filled with various pieces of medical equipment.  
Creighton School of Medicine X-Ray Department, circa 1930.

## Standards and Opportunities

Medical school admission requirements remained fundamentally unchanged. Four years of specified high school work and two of college remained the norm. Students were required, beginning in 1932, to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test for Medical Students (forerunner of the MCAT's). They also were asked to produce two letters of reference, and to submit to a physical examination.

Selection of applicants who have fulfilled the minimum requirements is made on the basis of character, quality of college work and percentile rating in the Aptitude Tests. Preference will be given to students who have had formal instruction in methods of study.<sup>9</sup>

To this was added, three years later, a preference given to those who had studied a foreign language.<sup>10</sup> The addition of "preferences" was no doubt due to the large number of applications received by Creighton. The 1936 yearbook, *The Blue Jay*, notes the fact that "nine times as many students annually apply for admission to the School of Medicine as are admitted."<sup>11</sup>

For Creighton students, as for the nation as a whole, financial considerations were of utmost concern during the 1930's. For the first time, in 1932, student employment was mentioned in the yearly medical *Announcement*. The need for student employment during medical school was severely discouraged:

The medical course makes exacting demands upon the time and energy of students. It is important, therefore, that expenses should be provided in advance and that none should plan to earn any considerable part of their support during the school year. . . New students should be provided with enough money to meet the expense of the first year.<sup>12</sup>

However, in acknowledging the reality that money was indeed scarce and that many students might have trouble making ends meet, the *Announcement* mentions the Creighton Union Employment Bureau, and also points up the junior intern program of local hospitals for junior and senior students. Firm admonitions accompany this acknowledgment, however:

The Faculty reserves the right to order discontinued any work which interferes with the satisfactory prosecution of the prescribed course. In no case can the exigencies of employment serve to excuse unsatisfactory performance of school duties.<sup>13</sup>



Passing the tube on student John Fairchild (M.D. 1941). Behind him is Arnold Lempka (M.D. 1941). Taken on April 28, 1939. (Courtesy Bertram Gosliner, M.D. 1941.)

Teaching fellowships were another option open to students to earn money. Offered to students with an undergraduate degree after completion of two years of medical school, these positions carried a yearly stipend of \$500.00. Incumbents assisted in labs and class demonstrations, and were expected to pursue academic endeavors leading to an advanced degree.<sup>14</sup> Furthermore, one 1939 graduate indicated that Father McInerney, Regent and Acting Dean for one year, bent the rules and allowed full time faculty appointees to conduct classes and attend medical school at the same time. This was done on an individual basis.<sup>15</sup>

The inclusion of specific information in the yearly *Announcement* about scholarships, loans and medical school prizes are indicative of the concern for student aid. By 1938 these loan sources included the Agnew, Webster and Woodbury Loan Funds. Prizes included \$50 offered for the highest four year cumulative grade record; \$50 for the best senior thesis (required); \$50 for the graduate with the highest grades in the Surgery Department; \$25 for the best junior thesis (required); and \$50, offered by the widow of the late Dean von Schulte, for the best sophomore thesis.<sup>16</sup>

Tuition, lab fees, books and instruments had become a major expense. In 1933, at a time when a gas range cost \$49.00, rooms at the Hotel Paxton, one of the city's best, began at \$2.50, and a new spring dress could be had for about \$1.79, tuition was \$100.00 per trimester, for a total of \$300.00 per year. Lab fees ran \$90.00 for the first year, \$85.00 for second, \$45.00 for third and \$25.00 for fourth year. Estimated book expense was \$45.00 for first year, \$40.00 second, \$100.00 third and \$20.00 for the fourth year. Finally, required instruments were estimated to cost \$140.00 to freshman students, \$85.00 for sophomores and \$25.00 for juniors.<sup>17</sup> This meant that an incoming freshman could expect to have out-of-pocket expenses of at least \$575.00, exclusive of board, room, clothing, etc.

In 1938 this tuition increased to \$400.00 per year, and stayed at this rate the remainder of the decade. Students who had done their pre-medical preparation in the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences were given the previous rate of \$300.00 the first year the new rate was in effect. In 1939, however, even they were expected to pay the new \$400.00 rate.<sup>18</sup>

To students in the 1930's, these costs no doubt seemed as formidable as tuition rates might appear to some today. It is not surprising that major emphasis was put on student loan drives, the idea being students helping other students. Despite the fact that medical students bore one of the heaviest financial loads of all students, it was reported that they led in contributions to the 1932 Agnew Student Loan Drive. Their participation was 100%.<sup>19</sup>

Dr. Joseph E. Sobota, (MD 1939), talks of his financial struggles while an undergraduate and during medical school at Creighton.

During the depression year of 1932, I entered Creighton University registering in the pre-med curriculum. At that time, and months earlier, my assets were at "zero amount." One of the priests told me



Omaha Stockyards, 1934, pride of the City. Largely founded by John A. Creighton.

it was foolhardy for any one to enter any university without adequate means. Rather than being discouraged I took his advice as a challenge. Fortunately I was able to obtain part-time employment by leading the University orchestra. For these services I received a part of my pre-med tuition. The rest was earned after hours in the music business.<sup>20</sup>

Dr. Sobota also talks of being discouraged to even start medical school without a cash reserve of \$1,000. Employment opportunities were few, and again, they were discouraged for medical students due to the intense nature of their studies. He remembers a few WPA jobs being available from the government, and recalls one other student, Harold Cole, as being employed as a postal worker.

In addition to waiting tables at the Phi Chi fraternity house, Dr. Sobota himself used his musical talent to earn funds. He played in the orchestra at Orpheum Theater performances. Sometimes a bit of juggling kept him in school. When funds ran low, he would hock his musical instruments for \$15.00 at the hock shop on 14th & Capitol Streets. He then had a problem earning more money: how to earn money without an instrument? A friend employed in a music shop handily solved his problem by loaning him instruments until he could redeem his own.

Another juggling act concerned a loan made available to Dr. Sobota by Father Murphy of the Bursar's Office. Dr. Sobota was loaned \$75.00 at a time, for a period not to exceed three months. At the end of the three months, he would repay the \$75.00, then turn around and borrow \$75.00 for another three months. This began in his undergraduate years and continued through medical school. So for at least five years, \$75.00 was passed back and forth with Dr. Sobota using it in three-month intervals, then scrambling to earn it back in time for the three-month deadline.

Dr. Sobota began medical school at Creighton in 1934. When his resources failed him and even his juggling acts couldn't keep him afloat, it was necessary to seek special permission to leave school for a year to work and earn enough money to continue. He spoke to the Jesuit Regent of the School of Medicine, Father John J. McNerny, whom Dr. Sobota says kept the place going. Father McNerny gave him a verbal commitment that he could have the year off following his freshman year provided he came back to school the following year. He did this, returning as a sophomore in the fall of 1936. He continued his hard work and manipulations and graduated with the class of 1939.<sup>21</sup>

Dr. Sobota personifies the hard work and dedication needed by some to graduate from medical school in the 1930's. No doubt there were others from the Creighton School of Medicine in the 1930's who went through similar detours and trials to achieve their goal. We do not



\* There's no parking problem when you travel by street car. Street Cars are loaned the necessary and complete set of parking street cars to work. One hundred cars used reduce every day more than 100,000 cars, and more satisfactory than any other means of transportation. Now, take the car!



1935-36 Interns, Creighton Memorial St. Joseph's Hospital. All 1935 Creighton School of Medicine graduates except Rich. Front row: Kovar, Downing, Iwersen, Kennedy, Katsuki. Back row: Formanack, Ferlic, Byrnes, Rich, Neu. James F. Kennedy, 4th from left, front row, writes, "Grim expressions exemplify the mood of the Depression and having an income of \$20.00 a month." (Courtesy Dr. James F. Kennedy, M.D. 1935.)

have details of all the struggles. What we do know is that if these graduates achieved respect, personal satisfaction and material advancement in later life in the medical field, they earned it and the fruits of their considerable efforts.

## Clinical Activities and Social Service

If there was an increased emphasis on any one phase of medical education at Creighton during the 1930's, it would be the clinical aspects of student preparation. In 1934 obstetrical privileges were obtained at the Salvation Army Women's



Main entrance, Mercy Hospital, Council Bluffs, 1930's.

Hospital, 1702 Grace Street (renamed the Booth Memorial Hospital and moved to 2404 Pratt Street about 1938). At the same time, a prenatal clinic was established at Friendship House, 19th & Ohio Streets.<sup>22</sup>

More significant was the growth of the school's Dispensary and Clinic, whose work load continued to expand. As the depression ground on, and more citizens were in need of free medical services, Creighton's School of Medicine responded with an increased stress on the social service aspect of its clinic operation. Medical students of 1933 and 1934 heard lectures by Father James Morrin, Executive

Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Omaha. He spoke on topics such as "Family Relief in the Time of Depression" and "Social Case Work and the Need of Character Building by Relief-Giving Organizations."<sup>23</sup>

A full-fledged Social Service Department was maintained at the School Dispensary,

whose duty it is to investigate the financial status of every clinical patient. And while true charity must be intelligently selective, it must not be guilty of objectionable, unkindly or excessive prying into private affairs.

Creighton's Social Service department has been efficient and thorough without violating these canons of good taste. Close cooperation with all of Omaha's social agencies, and tactful conversations with patients and visits to their homes have brought about a just and kindly ministrations of charity.<sup>24</sup>

In December 1935 a new director of the Social Service Department was named, Miss Lucille O'Reilly. Miss O'Reilly held a B.A. and had a background of extensive medical social work experience with the AMA, American Red Cross, New York Settlement Houses, and Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.<sup>25</sup>

The 1937 *Blue Jay* yearbook makes a point of listing the Dispensary's affiliations with major city social organizations. These included the Omaha Council of Social Agencies, the Visiting Nurses Association, the Public School Nurses, the Omaha Orthopedic Society, the Diocesan Catholic Charities and the Nebraska Tuberculosis Association.<sup>26</sup>



St. Bernard's Hospital, Council Bluffs, 1930's

Clinic statistics for those years are indicative of the greater need for free medical care in Omaha and of the magnitude of the Depression in general. An article reporting the 1932 figures for the dispensary calls the Creighton Clinic Omaha's greatest charity. It assigns a value of \$185,000 to the 32,207 patient visits to the Clinic, the 1,963 home visits made and the pharmaceuticals provided by the School of Pharmacy. This was exclusive of the dental work and hospitalization provided.<sup>27</sup>

Figures continued to increase. By 1937 the value of the 8,000 hours donated by doctors, nurses and social workers at the Dispensary was placed at \$250,000. Home visits for 1937 had increased to 3,156.<sup>28</sup> The figures for 1939 show an increase to 34,455 total dispensary visits, and 3,245 home visits.

Clearly, the numbers indicate that students had a tremendous opportunity for practical clinical application of their medical skills. It was reckoned that one out of every seven citizens of Omaha at the time made use of the Creighton Clinic and Dispensary.<sup>29</sup>

## St. Joseph's Hospital

St. Joseph's Hospital, always the primary clinical facility for the Creighton School of Medicine, was also having to face the depression. Records for 1931, just prior to von Schulte's death, indicate that 3,673 part-pay patients received 49,901 hospital days of care, while 1,470 totally free patients received 15,690 free hospital days. This was out of a total of 7,464 admissions.<sup>30</sup>

The next few years were dismal ones financially for the hospital. Cash income was down 18% in 1932, and a deficit of \$10,000 was incurred. Patient admissions for 1932 fell by 10,000 days of service from those of 1931. Twenty-two percent of all hospital business was done on a free basis, and 10,742 free meals were provided in 1932.

In 1933 the situation worsened. Free services increased to 25.4% of total business, cash income was down another 9%, and 17,103 free meals were provided. During this year, a record 101 men per meal lined up for free food. The mortgage payments stopped all together during 1932, and it was all the Sisters could do to meet the \$21,935 annual interest payment.<sup>31</sup>

From 1934 on there began slow but sure improvement in the financial picture of the hospital. In 1934 1,339 free patients accounted for 22% of a total of 6,061 patients. Part-pay patients totaled 3,414 (56% of all patients). This meant that only 22% of all patients were able to pay their bills to St. Joseph's Hospital in full.<sup>32</sup> There was, however, a noticeable decline of almost 10,000 free meals served, bringing the 1934 total to 7,631.

In 1936 the Sisters were able to refinance the remaining \$415,000 mortgage balance on a more advantageous interest and repayment basis. In



St. Joseph's Hospital in the 1930's - a big place!



St. Joseph's Hospital, 1930's. View from the southwest.

1937 payments were again resumed on the mortgage proper.<sup>33</sup> The worst of the financial crisis had passed.

Despite the debts and financial difficulties, life, death and medicine went on at St. Joseph's. One Mother Superior, Sister Mary Cosma, celebrated her golden anniversary as a religious (October 1933) amidst much pomp, ceremony and banqueting.<sup>34</sup> Then ill health forced her to resign as Superior of the Hospital, in March of 1934.<sup>35</sup> Her successor, Sister Mary Fulgentia, in turn celebrated her golden jubilee in April 1936. The festivities were complete with a banquet attended by local civic and church dignitaries and a ceremony in which she was attended by 50 small girls dressed in white, wearing crowns of gold. The ceremony culminated with her being crowned by the Bishop of Omaha.<sup>36</sup>

Improvements at St. Joseph's during the 1930's were necessary ones of a practical nature in ancillary services, costly but not showy. Boilers were replaced in 1934, and in 1938 a new bakery was built, a central stores division was established, kitchen improvements were made and lounge and library facilities for patients and interns were provided. In 1939 laundry facilities were improved, and a new building to house the Business Office was begun east of the main lobby.<sup>37</sup>

Other items of note occurred at St. Joseph's Hospital during the 1930's. The hospital's ties to official organizations were strengthened during this decade. In March of 1932, the Nebraska Division of the American College of Surgeons held a two-day conference in Omaha, and St. Joseph's was the site chosen to demonstrate surgical equipment and hospital management techniques.<sup>38</sup>

In March of 1933, St. Joseph's and St. Catherine's joined the newly organized Omaha Hospital Council, whose purpose was to "promote efficiency and cooperation in and between the various hospitals, and to consider matters of mutual interest to the institutions, including business, credit and nursing problems."<sup>39</sup>

In June 1935 Omaha was the host city for the annual meeting of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada. A preliminary inspection tour of Omaha by Father Alphonse Schwitalla of the St. Louis Medical School, president of the association, had emphasized Creighton's ties to St. Joseph's, and helped him decide on the Omaha meeting site.<sup>40</sup>

Babies were highlighted several times during the 1930's at St. Joseph's. In May of 1933, a St. Joseph's Babies' Homecoming Day was celebrated in conjunction with National Hospital Day. It was reported that since its inception 14 years before, 5,082 babies had been born in the St. Joseph Maternity Department. This would have made "St. Joseph's Babytown" the 15th largest community in Nebraska in 1933.<sup>41</sup> In February 1938, a Well Baby Clinic was established to give periodic exams to newborns.<sup>42</sup> This doesn't sound at all unusual today but was a fairly innovative concept for 1938.

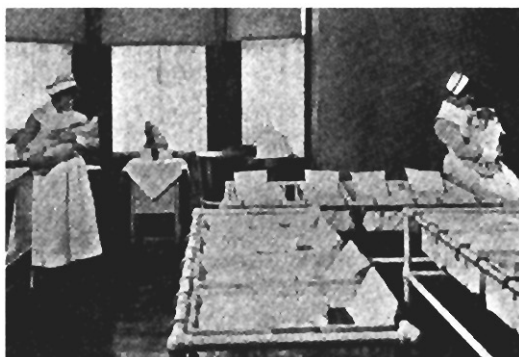
The Radiology Department was especially active during the 1930's. In March 1932 the addition of a state-of-the-art deep therapy X-Ray machine made news.<sup>43</sup> A tumor clinic, the only one of its kind in Nebraska recognized by the American College of Surgeons, was established in January 1934 under the auspices of the Chief of Radiology, Dr. James F. Kelly (M.D. 1915).<sup>44</sup> December of 1938 saw the largest portable X-Ray machine in the United States installed at the hospital. It was custom built to the specifications of Dr. Kelly.<sup>45</sup>



St. Joseph's Hospital Kitchen, 1930's.



Pathology Laboratory of St. Joseph's Hospital in the 1930's.



The Baby Room at St. Joseph's in the 1930's.

The number of residencies at St. Joseph's approved by the AMA's Council on Medical Education expanded during this period. In 1933 a radiology residency was approved, with Dr. D. Arnold Dowell (M.D.1931) serving as the first radiology resident.<sup>46</sup> In 1938, specialty residencies in Medicine, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Pathology and Surgery were all approved.<sup>47</sup>

### Public Image

One thing the Creighton University School of Medicine did especially well during the 1930's was to increase public awareness of and appreciation for the school. The Clinic and Dispensary were, of course, the primary vehicle for keeping Creighton in Omaha's public consciousness. Various other means were also used to highlight Creighton medicine, both to professional circles, and to the populace of Omaha and Nebraska as well. For example, Creighton co-sponsored a booth with the Nebraska Medical Association at the Nebraska State Fair of 1932. In addition to displays of medical equipment, promotional materials were distributed, highlighting the history of Creighton University and its medical school, and detailing the contributions made to Nebraska by the Creighton brothers.<sup>48</sup>

The Creighton University of the Air continued broadcasting its daily radio series, and the School of Medicine contributed programs. Some examples were Dr. C. M. Wilhelmj speaking on "Great Plagues of the Middle Ages" on March 12, 1934, and Dr. F. C. Hill presenting a program on "Blood Poisoning" on January 29, 1934.<sup>49</sup>

A futuristic idea, begun in 1935, was the area's first flying ambulance, named the Angel of Mercy. While not specifically associated with Creighton, the doctors involved in the project were Creighton grads almost to the man, and all associated with St. Joseph's Hospital. This had to be good publicity for all involved. Ironically, it can be noted that the plane was owned by Heafey and Heafey, well-known funeral directors in Omaha.<sup>50</sup>



Dr. James F. McDonald, Professor of Physiology, "at the mike" for WOW Radio program, late 1930's.

One of the best ways for a medical school to increase professional awareness and enhance standing within academic circles is to sponsor clinics. These serve a legitimate post-graduate educational need, but also familiarize the medical community with the host school. In the 1930's, Creighton School of Medicine sponsored several of these. A good example was a popular three-day tumor clinic held in April 1933.<sup>51</sup>

In January 1936 Creighton and St. Joseph Hospital were much involved in the program and clinics of the Medical Association of the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

## Mid-West Clinical

The most significant of the clinics held during this decade was the Omaha Mid-West Clinical Society. The idea for the Society originated in 1932 with Dr. Joseph D. McCarthy, who envisioned an organization to offer opportunities for medical post-graduate education to area physicians. After probing local interest, the formation of the Omaha-Mid-West Clinical Society was announced on December 22, 1932. Its stated purposes were:

- To make possible the highest type of postgraduate assemblies in Omaha for all physicians of the Midwest.
- To systematize and coordinate the clinics and teaching facilities of Omaha so that they are made available throughout the year to visiting physicians. (The focus 50 years later was on the once-a-year fall program.)
- To build a cohesive group capable of carrying on the work necessary to postgraduate teaching.
- To familiarize the physicians and laymen of this territory with the splendid opportunities afforded in Omaha for medical and surgical service.<sup>52</sup>

Among the first elected officers were Creighton's own Dr. Adolph Sachs (M.D. 1907, Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine) as Vice-President, and Drs. J.F. Langdon (M.D. 1906) and B.M. Riley (M.D. 1900 and Dean of the school at the time) on the Executive Committee.

The first meeting of the Society convened on October 30, 1933, with about 600 physicians in attendance. It featured exhibits, lectures, clinics and banquets. By 1935 both Creighton and the Nebraska College of Medicine determined that senior students at their schools would be required to attend all sessions as a part of their curriculum. In 1940, after multitudes of requests were made for reprints of presentations given at the sessions, it was decided to establish *The Journal of the Omaha Mid-West Clinical Society*. This instrument was published continuously at least until 1969.



Air Ambulance, the first in Nebraska. Left to right: T. P. and C. P. Heafey; William L. Sucha (M.D. 1908); John R. Dwyer (M.D. 1912); Edward E. McMahon (M.D. 1920); John J. Gleeson (M.D. 1912); Beulah Bohenkamp, R.N.; Benjamin Ewing (M.D. 1923); John F. Langdon (M.D. 1906); and John W. Duncan (M.D. 1912). (Courtesy Heafey, Heafey, Hoffman, Dworak and Cutler.)

*The Journal*  
OF THE  
OMAHA MID-WEST CLINICAL SOCIETY

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The Society continued to grow and prosper. It had some hard times during the 1960's but bounced back stronger than ever. It continues to this day, with Creighton and the University of Nebraska Medical Center playing cooperative roles in its organization and functioning. It has been combined with School of Medicine class reunions so that graduates can conveniently incorporate the two.

All of the above emphasizes the fact that the Depression affected the Creighton School of Medicine adversely as it did all institutions nationwide. But Creighton was still able to prosper and advance, despite the financial exigencies of the decade. In addition to the impressive level of charity work accomplished through the Clinic and the School's affiliated hospitals, innovative concepts

were introduced and translated into reality. The area's first air ambulance, the expansion of residency opportunities, Creighton's involvement in the newly formed Omaha Mid-West Clinical Society, and the establishment of tumor and well-baby clinics – all denote a commitment to medical progress and a leadership role in achieving it. Most importantly, the School did persevere in maintaining its primary goal, the quality education of physicians. When World War II increased the tempo of medical education nationwide, the Creighton School of Medicine was ready to meet the new challenges.

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