

CAMARILLO STATE HOSPITAL  
CAMARILLO CALIFORNIA

In 1929, the State Legislature appropriated \$1,000,000.00 for the establishment of a new mental hospital in Southern California. Not until 1932 was the present site of 1,648 acres, which is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Camarillo, purchased for approximately \$425,000.00. The site was a portion of the old Lewis Ranch property and referred to in early California history as the original home of the Lima bean industry.

In 1931 the Legislature appropriated \$455,600.00 for the construction and equipping of a patients' unit. Soon thereafter, construction was started on the first portion of the male custodial unit and made ready for occupancy in the summer of 1936. Alterations were made to existing ranch buildings to accommodate 100 working patients to assist in extensive farm work and operations. The completed portion comprised ten wards with a total capacity of approximately 900 patients who were quickly transferred to Camarillo State Hospital from other institutions.

A formal dedication of the institution was held on October 12, 1936, with Governor Merriam participating.

The hospital continued to receive Legislative appropriations for construction and expansion, and this hospital experienced one of the most phenomenal increases in patient population of any institution in California's history. From a mere 100 patients in 1936, to 1,082 in 1937; 2,501 in 1940; 4,123 in 1945; 4,960 in 1950, to a total population of 6,748 on April 8, 1953.

The current valuation of the entire hospital is placed at \$19,765,116.49.

The hospital has been able to keep farming operations abreast of the ever-increasing population with increased acreage and vegetable production and the production of alfalfa for the dairy, which now consists of 523 high grade Holstein cows. Hog ranch operations have increased from a few feeder pigs to a total of 497 head notwithstanding the fact that practically no funds have been expended for a modern and up-to-date piggery.