



Ramona Hospital was located on the northeast corner of 4th & Arrowhead. The San Bernardino downtown Public Library now occupies that site.

It was a part of your life, this hospital, now a rickety old structure that soon will pass, carrying with it a sea of memories. Within its very walls, an estimated 33,000 babies were born, more people than lived in the town during the first 20 years of the hospital's existence. Many returned to die there and God only knows how far over the world others are scattered.

If you or any of your people were ever a patient at the old Ramona you can't have forgotten the head of the staff, Dr. Mills, he of the snow-white hair, an impeccably dressed Britisher with a curtly clipped English accent, a charming sense of humor and a genuine interest in your welfare and health.

As a young man he had come to San Bernardino about 1905 or 1906 to share the practice of the late Dr. George B. Rowell, who, it seemed, had advertised in the London newspapers for just such a man.

Dr. Mills, ambitious and with an eye for the community's needs, soon established a hospital, the residence at the southeast corner of 4th and F Sts., taking in Dr. George Martyn as an assistant. Dr. Mills resided across the way on F St. on the southwest corner in a two-story home, once the Anderson place.

Dr. Mills' makeshift hospital's business boomed and he interested one of the town's leading attorneys, Ralph E. Swing, whom he had served as the obstetrician at the birth of his son, Everett, to build a larger hospital. Swing acquired the site at Arrowhead Ave. and 4th St. and at a cost of \$10,000, a lot of money in those days, erected the Ramona Hospital, then acclaimed as modern in every respect.

An old adobe house, once a saloon, had occupied the site, Swing recalls.

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