Finding Aid

HARRIS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
CR28
(1938 - 1998)

Size: 4 cubic feet
Accession Number: 2003.015
Restrictions on Access: None
Processed by: Chris LaVerne; Sarah
Restrictions on Use: None
Canby Jackson, 2006
Acquisition: Harris County Hospital

Citation: [Identification of Item], Harris County Hospital District, Harris County
District, December 2003.
Archives, Houston, Texas.

Agency History:

In 1888 the Harris County Commissioners Court contracted with the Sisters of Charity of
the Incarnate Word and St. Joseph’s Infirmary to care for the county’s indigent
population. Soon after World War I, the City of Houston converted the unused buildings
at Camp Logan into an indigent hospital. Several years later, the county and city agreed
jointly to fund the construction and operation of a new charity institution, Jeff Davis
Hospital on Elder Street, which opened in 1924. In 1938 a larger, modern Jeff Davis
Hospital was built on Buffalo Drive to replace the older building. However, squabbles
over equitable funding continued to erupt annually between the city and the county.
Public health care for the indigent and needy suffered greatly as a result. By the mid-
1960s indigent care in Harris County had reached a crisis point. In November 1965, a
voter referendum created the Harris County Hospital District which replaced the City of
Houston and Harris County joint funding system.

The Hospital District is governed by a nine-member Board of Managers appointed by the
Harris County Commissioners Court to two-year extendable terms. The Board of
Managers meets monthly and concerns itself primarily with matters of policy with the
Commissioners Court approving the Hospital District budget. The District’s annual
budget increased from $23 million in 1966 to $780 million in fiscal year 2006. The
Harris County Hospital District is currently the fifth largest metropolitan public health
care system in the country. In 2003, 6,500 employees handled 1.1 million emergency
room and outpatient clinic visits and delivered over 10,600 newborns. The Hospital
District provides services through 3 hospitals (Ben Taub, LBJ General, and Quentin
Mease), 2 specialty centers, 12 community health centers, 7 school based clinics and 4 eligibility centers.

Bibliography:

http://www.hchdonline.com/

Collection Summary:

Media files consisting of scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, photographs, and video tapes, document the history of the Harris County Hospital District and public health issues from 1938 – 1998. Photographs (1919 – 1958) of Camp Logan, Old Jeff Davis Hospital, New Jeff Davis Hospital, and the inspector’s photographs record the hospital buildings prior to the creation of the Hospital District. Twenty-five pages of 35 mm. contact prints and two 8 x 10 inch prints (ca. 1990) document the activities of both patients and employees.

Archivist’s Note:

All the scrapbooks and newspaper clipping files were reformatted for access purposes. The originals were discarded except for the 1938 – 1940 scrapbook and the photographs and clippings from a 1940 scrapbook.

The video tapes have not been cataloged.

The Harris County Archives has what may be an uncorrected proof of Jan De Hartog’s highly influential work, The Hospital, published in 1964.
### Inventory

**Series: Media Files**
**Subseries: Scrapbooks and Newspaper Clippings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scrapbooks - reformatted</td>
<td>1938 - 1974</td>
<td>0353-X-00</td>
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<td>Scrapbook</td>
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**Subseries: Photographs**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Logan Barracks</td>
<td>ca. 1919</td>
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<td>Jeff Davis Hospital (Old)</td>
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<td>0003-P-08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Davis Hospital (New) - Aerial</td>
<td>ca. 1938</td>
<td>0005-P-00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Davis Hospital (New) - Power Plant</td>
<td>ca. 1938</td>
<td>0005-P-00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Davis Hospital (New) - Power Plant &amp; Laundry</td>
<td>ca. 1938</td>
<td>0005-P-00</td>
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<td>Jeff Davis Hospital (New)</td>
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<td>0005-P-00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patients and Employees Harris County Hospital District</td>
<td>ca. 1990</td>
<td>0003-P-07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatric Patients and Employees Harris County Hospital District</td>
<td>ca. 1990</td>
<td>0003-P-09</td>
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<td>Jefferson Davis Hospital Houston, Texas / Showing the Deterioration of the Building</td>
<td>1958, 05</td>
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