



Roland Miller photo



Roland Miller photo

THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

- 1975: DEDICATING THE SALMON RIVER CLINIC

On February 7, 1972 a group of farseeing dedicated people of the Stanley area met at the Rod and Gun Club with Gary Steinbach of the Idaho Hospital Association to discuss the possibility of providing nurse, ambulance, and clinic

services for this area. The unit to be known as the Salmon River Medical Center. Emergency medical training for ambulance attendants, provision for a nurse practitioner, building site, building plans, and methods of financing were also discussed. The requirement for two doctors to support the clinic was met by Doctors Packer and Gwinner volunteering their services.

Marie Osborn, our Nurse Practitioner, was at this time taking an Emergency Medical Nurse Practitioner's course at the University of Washington followed by an internship in the emergency room and lab of St. Alphonsus Hospital in Boise.

Since that time, she has completed the Family Nurse Practitioners Program at the University of Utah, followed by 800 hours internship at Blaine County and Sun Valley Hospitals, plus one month of independent study specializing in lab training and radiology. The residents and visitors of this area are indeed fortunate to have someone with such exceptional ability and dedication to staff our clinic.



John Osborn photo



Marie Osborn photo archive

On March 14, 1972, the local committee met with the Emergency Medical Training Occupational Advisory Committee in Challis and plans were formulated for Emergency Medical Technician's training to be offered in Stanley. Since then, nearly 50 volunteers have been trained as EMTs.

On March 20, the first a public meeting at the Salmon River Medical Center was held and prospects of obtaining an ambulance were explored. Ted and Phyllis Williams offered the use of a 28' trailer as a temporary clinic quarters, but a suitable location was needed. Dr. Cully of Idaho Falls heard about this through TV coverage and called the Williamses offering his office equipment to our struggling clinic if someone would transport it. Marvin and Fern Larson and Ted Williams went post haste to accept his generous offer. Since then, many doctors and companies have donated much in the way of equipment and supplies.

On April 5, the group adopted the name Salmon River Emergency Clinic since there was some controversy as to the meaning of the word "medical." At this meeting it was decided to purchase the 1958 Pontiac ambulance through the State Civil Defense.



FULLY-EQUIPPED AMBULANCE is now available at Stanley, following fund drive. Community also has emergency treatment center. (SMS photo)

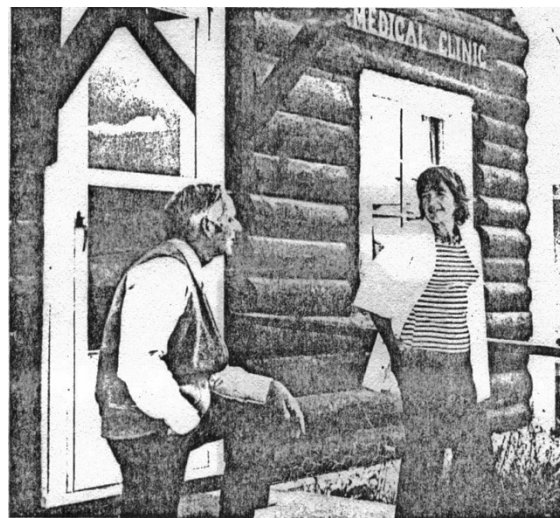
Marie Osborn
Photo Archive

In May 1972, it was decided to open a Flea Market. This, plus the rock shop, raffle of an Afghan and a hand-hooked rug, dance and a Chinese auction were some of the money-making projects. Donations from the Chamber of Commerce and Federal matching funds, plus individual contributions of money, equipment, supplies and labor, made it possible to realize our Impossible Dream.

In June 1972, the clinic opened in the former C.A. Gregory home, now owned and donated for use by Marvin and Fern Larson.

On July 5, headquarters for the ambulance and dispatch station were established at the Armada motel and the dispatch station is still there.

In October, the Constitution and By-Laws were drawn up. These were presented to the public at the first annual meeting on October 26 and adopted. It was at this meeting that the chairman, because of depleted finances, asked for a vote as to whether Salmon River Emergency Clinic should continue to function. Twenty-six votes for continuance, and none against, determined the issue. Election of officers followed. At this meeting the group decided to accept Clifton Connyer's generous offer for a lot for half price on



Marie Osborn
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the corner of Highway 21 and 2nd Avenue as a building site for the clinic and ambulance. This land was purchased, thus providing a site for our Clinic.

During the winter of 1972, attorney Jim Bennets helped us become an incorporated body, and during 1973–74, attorney Tim Robertson helped us to meet the requirements to become a nonprofit organization.

In October 1973, the foundation for the clinic was poured. Then Old Man Winter intervened with foul weather and deep snow. In January 1974, plans were finalized for construction of a frame building to house the Clinic and ambulance.

On the weekend of March 15, the volunteer laborers using a bulldozer, loader, snowblowers, and snowplow, discovered there was still a Clinic foundation under all that snow. With construction leadership centered in Jerry Funderburg and Gerald Nicholson, and with the help of practically every able-bodied man and woman in the community, visible progress was soon made. The women of the community are to be commended for the excellent meals provided for these hungry workers.

Through the contributions of people all over the United States, we have come this far. With a little more help we shall realize THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM.



Marie Osborn Photo Archive

Those who have served as Clinic Board Members are: Marvin Larson, Phyllis Williams, Ruth Niece, Dave Kimpton, Tom Bulgin, Linda Kaufman, Ted Williams, Jerry Funderburg, Freda Nicholson, and Maria Osborn, NP. Linda Kaufman, RN, has been most generous to donate her time and her services to anyone in need and to the clinic. Cal Osborn has been an administrative advisor to the Board.

Dedication of the Salmon River Clinic and Open House

Stanley, Idaho

June 15, 1975

Invocation - - - Rev. J.J. Fleming

Guest speaker - - Gary Steinbach

Closing remarks and Benediction

Clyde Rigby