

# Photo of the Month

## St. Mary's Hospital



Rogers Memorial Hospital (now St. Mary's), 1951. Courtesy of St. Mary's Hospital. Neg. #N018035

In the late 1800s and early 1900s Rogers doctors made “house calls” and supplied their own medications to patients. A “sanitarium,” or private hospital, at 506 East Spruce Street (now the Office of Human Concern) was run by Dr. George Love (1909-1934), the Vroom family (1934-1943), and the Dorothy Pettit (1943-1947).

Following WWII, however, the Rogers chamber of commerce led the planning for Rogers' first public hospital. The Rice family donated funds to purchase the sixteen acres of land on which Rogers Memorial Hospital was built at the corner of 13th and Walnut Streets. In 1951 it came under the direction of the Sisters of Saint Dominic and in 1979 became known as St. Mary's Hospital. The hospital continued to expand its facilities and services and in 1995 it was transferred to the Sisters of Mercy Health System out of St. Louis. In early 2008, Mercy Hospital moved to a new state-of-the-art medical campus just east of Interstate 540 off of New Hope Road in southwest Rogers, on 75 acres of land donated by the late Evelyn Rife and family in 1998.

In October 2008, Mercy Health System donated the former St. Mary's Hospital facility to the Jones Trust for the establishment of a Center for Nonprofits, uniting many of the area's nonprofit programs and activities under one roof. Renovation of the facility is focused on updating the energy systems to make them more efficient, environmentally friendly, and cost effective, with a focus on sustainability and green building practices.