

## Book Commemorates 75 Years of AMH History

September 29 2011 1:25 PM



ALTON, IL -- Alton Memorial Hospital will celebrate 75 years of caring for the community in 2012. In recognition of this milestone, local author Charlotte Stetson has written a comprehensive book that highlights the people and events that shaped the hospital's history.

"Alton Memorial Hospital – 75 Years of Excellence," tells the story that began with the dream of the Smith family, who donated funds and a portion of their family estate to build a community hospital that opened its doors Nov. 15, 1937. Sisters Eunice Smith and Ellen Hatch were visionaries with the expectation that the hospital they founded would be "laid out according to the best modern principles."

Dedicated staff thrived in an innovative work environment. Pioneers like Dr. Daniel Platt and physical therapists Garth Taylor and Neil Bower were not only on the cutting edge of medicine, they often set the standard that others emulated.

"I hope this book shows how, for 75 years, Alton Memorial Hospital has been a health care leader," Stetson said. "It tells the stories of the many individuals, past and present, who support the hospital's mission to improve the health of the people and communities it serves. It was very enjoyable and extremely interesting doing the research about this wonderful hospital."

This limited edition will include 160 pages with more than 200 photographs, many never before published.

Stetson was born and raised in Alton. She has worked in the public relations and advertising fields at AMH and the Alton Telegraph. Charlotte became interested in history through a volunteer service project, writing brief histories of the River Bend for presentation in the Alton schools. Her research led to a deep interest in the community's past and to the authorship and publication of three previous books: *Alton: An Illustrated History* in 1986; *The Best of Alton* in 1998; and *Alton Remembered* with Don Huber and the late Robert E. St. Peters in 2000.

"Alton Memorial Hospital – 75 Years of Excellence" is available for a pre-ordered price of \$26.95 (plus shipping) before Nov. 1 or \$31.95 (plus shipping) after Nov. 1. Order forms, available for download at [www.altonmemorialhospital.org](http://www.altonmemorialhospital.org), can be mailed to the AMH Development Office, 1 Memorial Drive, Alton, IL 62002. For more information, please contact the Development Office at 618-463-7701.

**Charlotte Stetson's fourth book about Alton history focuses on Alton Memorial Hospital as AMH gets ready to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012.**

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