New Mexico Historical Review

Volume 85 | Number 1 Article 3

1-1-2010

A Matter Very Close to My Heart: Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Tingleys, and the Creation of the Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children

David Kammer

"A Matter Very Close to My Heart"

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, THE TINGLEYS, AND THE CREATION OF THE CARRIE TINGLEY HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN

David Kammer

The seventy-fifth anniversary of Franklin D. Roosevelt's ascension to the presidency renewed attention to the many programs his administration initiated in its effort to raise the country and its citizens out of the Great Depression. Promising the American people that they would receive a "new deal" as he accepted his party's nomination in Chicago in 1932, his campaign offered voters a new vision of government. As he campaigned, he pledged to actively create programs that would put the unemployed back to work and offer them more security in the future. The programs his staff unveiled, beginning with the whirlwind of initial activity known as the "one hundred days," produced a plethora of new agencies and bureaus that administrators humorously, and critics wryly, labeled the "alphabet army."

While the various manifestations of the alphabet army contributed to the emergence of many new bureaucracies in New Mexico's state government, three programs accounted for most of the jobs created under the New Deal in the state.[1] These programs included the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), both enacted in 1933, and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), formed under the Federal Emergency Relief Appropriations Act (FERA) in 1935. Each differed significantly in the types of workers employed and the projects undertaken.

David Kammer lives in Albuquerque. He compiled the historic and architectural resources of the New Deal for the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division.

Whether federally initiated projects, such as the construction of Conchas Dam, or locally initiated, such as the construction of the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library, PWA projects were generally capital intensive and used many skilled workers not listed on relief roles. The CCC recruited companies of men, many hailing from other states, who were assigned to various state and federal agencies to undertake a variety of conservation projects. In New Mexico these agencies generally included the national and state park systems and various services within the Department of Agriculture.

In contrast the WPA drew the vast majority of its workers from the county work relief roles composed of locally unemployed citizens. Generally labor intensive because of the emphasis on creating jobs in local communities, WPA projects were proposed and sponsored by local governments or other public authorities and reviewed by state administrators who sometimes offered technical support as well. Typically, the federal government provided funding for workers' wages, and the local sponsors supplied resources such as land and construction material. Nationwide the WPA covered 78 percent of all project costs and local sponsors contributed 22 percent. Totals for the WPA's approximately four thousand projects carried out in New Mexico show that $48.9 million (76 percent) of WPA funding came from the federal government and $15.4 million (24 percent) came from local sponsors. One such project in New Mexico was the Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children in Hot Springs, devised in 1935 and opened in 1937. The hospital demonstrates how the process of local sponsorship, project funding, building design, and construction worked in New Mexico and, ultimately, how this project brought a "new deal" to those in need.

The idea for constructing a hospital devoted to helping New Mexican children suffering from infantile paralysis, talipes, and other crippling diseases first arose in 1935. More than any other New Deal project undertaken in the state, the hospital held the personal attention and interest of President Roosevelt from its initial planning to completion. Proposed by Gov. Clyde K. Tingley shortly after he took office, the project was sponsored by the state and funded by the WPA. Its plan and intent were based largely on the design and medical practices developed at the Warm Springs Foundation located at Warm Springs, Georgia. The Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children opened in Hot Springs, New Mexico, in 1937, and treated thousands of the state's children at that location for over four decades. The hospital was relocated to Albuquerque in 1981, but the buildings of

the original complex, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003, remain one of the notable legacies of the New Deal in New Mexico.

Although evidence of humans afflicted by polio dates to archeological investigations in Egypt, and the sixteenth-century artist Pieter Brueghel depicted victims of poliomyelitis, medical treatment for its victims was relatively new during the New Deal era. Practitioners of western medicine did not begin to seek remedies for the disease until the mid-eighteenth century. In 1780 Dr. Jean Andre Venal opened the first children's hospital in Orbé, Switzerland. In the United States, Dr. John Ball Brown first began to undertake orthopedic surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in the mid-nineteenth century and a clinic opened at Harvard University around the same time.[2]

Even as orthopedic surgery sought to reduce the crippling effects of polio, advancements in public health and hygiene ironically contributed to the rise of polio epidemics. In earlier, less hygienic societies, children were generally exposed to the polio virus as infants when they still carried maternal antibodies. As a result, attacks were usually mild, and these children emerged not only unscathed but with a lifelong immunity to the disease. In effect polio became a "disease associated with cleanliness"; children of the wealthier classes, often segregated from mainstream urban life, were not exposed to the virus.[3] Shielded from exposure to mild forms of the virus in early childhood, wealthy children became more susceptible to polio in later life when an attack carried the potential for greater harm.

By the early twentieth century, the increased frequency of polio epidemics prompted greater medical attention to treating those afflicted with the disease, as well as a greater emphasis on finding the means to eradicate it. Evidence of this new frontier in medicine appeared in the 1920s, when the Gillette Hospital in Minnesota and the first Shriners' hospitals, supported by the Freemasons, began to offer therapeutic treatment to children.

New Mexico offered no such hospital to help its paralyzed children. The state was sparsely populated and economically poor and its skeletal state bureaucracy had only two agencies, the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department and the Board of Public Welfare, with offices in each of the state's counties. The state and the Southwest in general, however, did have a long history of people coming to the region to regain their health. Most notable were those afflicted with pulmonary diseases that came to take advantage of the dry climate and high elevation prescribed by physicians. Seen as a "zone of immunity," the region had attracted these health seekers since the era of the Santa Fe Trail in the nineteenth century. Many

prominent New Mexicans, including Carrie Tingley, wife of the governor, had come to the area seeking climatological therapy. Many of those who "chased the cure" and survived remained and made substantial contributions to both public and private life in New Mexico.

While "lungers," as those with tuberculosis were often labeled, comprised the majority of health seekers, others came to New Mexico seeking cures for other ailments during the late territorial period. Many were attracted to the natural hot springs scattered around the state, such as those found in Hot Springs, New Mexico, along the west bank of the Rio Grande in Sierra County. Located in a small thermal basin less than a square mile, the springs were fed by hot waters rising along a fault line between the area's Magdalena limestone upthrust and the alluvium lining the base of the hogback adjacent to the basin.

The hot springs had long attracted people to the area. Dating to prehistoric times, the springs had been frequented by Native Americans. Later, soldiers stationed at nearby Fort McCrea during the territorial period visited the springs, then referred to as Palomas Hot Springs, and sometimes endured Indian attacks to do so. When the Bureau of Reclamation began the construction of Elephant Butte Dam in 1911, just a few miles north of the town, the workers and their families, comprising a temporary city of four thousand people living near the dam site, visited Palomas Hot Springs. Unlike the government's prohibition of alcohol at the work site, the town had no such restrictions and became a destination not only for its mineral baths but for the opportunities it offered for revelry.

Even prior to the completion of the dam in 1916, the town began to grow, dropping Palomas from its name in 1914 when the post office at Hot Springs near Las Vegas, New Mexico, closed. In 1916 the community incorporated, and in 1917 Pres. Woodrow Wilson removed the settlement restrictions imposed on the area during the construction of the dam, reopened it to public entry, and provided pre-emptive rights for those who had "squatted" on the now former government land. The U.S. Census of 1920 listed 455 residents in Hot Springs, a sharp spike from the 100 residents living there just six years earlier.

Much of the growth stemmed from the booster activities of the town's leaders. The Commercial Club, founded in 1914, became the Chamber of Commerce in 1917 and actively promoted the town. Similarly, the town's two newspapers provided weekly listings of health seekers and their hometowns and offered anecdotal accounts of miraculous recoveries attributable

to the mineral waters available at a growing number of bathhouses. Encouraging residents to retain their optimism as the town sought Wilson's approval to grant them pre-emptive rights, the *Sierra County Herald* predicted that "when the worst is over we will have one of the best hot springs resorts in the world."[4]

During the 1920s the town's population nearly tripled. Indicative of its growing identity as a health resort community, the U.S. Census of 1930 listed several occupations associated with health resort operations, such as bathhouse operator, attendant, masseuse, apartment manager, and tourist camp operator. Despite its identity as a health resort, Hot Springs developed in sharp contrast to most contemporary health spas. Resorts such as Montezuma Hot Springs near Las Vegas, New Mexico, and facilities in towns like Manitou Springs, Colorado, offered luxurious hotels and attracted a wealthy clientele who traveled by railroad to their destination. Hot Springs, in contrast, catered to more penurious visitors who arrived by car or by jitney from the nearest railroad stop eighteen miles to the east in Engle, New Mexico. The newcomers had the option of staying in a limited number of hotels, in the growing number of tourist courts, or in canvas tents scattered on vacant lots. By the 1930s, Hot Springs appeared to be a minimally planned community with bathhouses and tourist courts located on irregular parcels, which were reminiscent of the irregular plots formed during the earlier squatter era.

Despite the onset of the Great Depression, the town's boosters continued a vigorous promotional campaign into the 1930s. Labeling the town "Hot Springs in the Land of Sunshine," they extolled the "Vim, Vigor, [and] Vitality" that the mineral waters offered. In 1931 they unsuccessfully attempted to bring the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team to Hot Springs for spring training. That same year, town boosters encouraged local residents to write letters to national magazines proclaiming the effectiveness of the mineral waters in overcoming paralysis. The *New Mexico Highway Journal*, forerunner to *New Mexico Magazine*, featured Hot Springs in an article in 1931, noting that the town "is rapidly gaining a national reputation as a health center." It further proclaimed that its mineral waters and balmy climate were "beneficial to pulmonary and bronchial troubles" and offered a "cure for rheumatism in all its forms, blood and skin disorders, ulcerated stomachs, genito-urinary and kindred diseases."[5]

When Tingley became governor of New Mexico in 1935, his efforts to promote the state coincided with the ongoing promotional endeavors of Hot Springs' residents. No stranger to boosting a New Mexico community,

ILL. 1. GOVERNOR CLYDE K. TINGLEY, 1938
(Photograph courtesy Carrie Tingley Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico)

as he did when he was mayor of Albuquerque, Tingley broadened his promotional horizons when he shifted his residence to the Governor's Mansion in Santa Fe. In the fall of 1934, he had run on a platform that included improving the state's highways to promote tourism. Tingley was also an unabashed New Dealer and a Roosevelt supporter dating to the Democratic National Convention held in Houston in 1928 when, as a delegate, he had heard the "Happy Warrior" speech Roosevelt gave to nominate Al Smith for president. In 1932 Tingley considered running for governor, but did not gain the necessary support from the Democratic Party leaders. Instead, Tingley was chosen to meet Roosevelt's campaign train as it passed through New Mexico and thus he was unable to remain at the state convention as it convened to nominate Gov. Arthur Seligman for a second term.[6]

In retrospect this calculated shun by party leaders benefited Tingley who met Roosevelt personally for the first time as he accompanied him across the state. Instead of becoming governor in 1933—a great likelihood as New Mexico voters made a seismic shift to the Democratic Party that year—Tingley was forced to wait until 1935. Doing so meant that he entered office when key New Deal programs, especially the WPA, were implemented and began distributing newly available funds to states for local projects. Throughout his four years as governor, Tingley remained acutely aware of the opportunities that the New Deal offered states to improve all facets of public infrastructure from airports to zoos. In 1935 he asked county school superintendents throughout the state to list their school construction needs, and he closed his letters to them with "There will never be an opportunity like the present to correct the conditions now existing," in the state's school districts.[7]

In her biographical manuscript of the Tingleys, Erna Fergusson mused: "Tingley and the New Deal might have been made for each other. Money to put men to work on projects of use to city and state and for beautification."[8] Certainly, his actions as governor during his four-year tenure show that Tingley understood the potential WPA projects held for constructing

ILL. 2. CARRIE TINGLEY, 1938 *(Photograph courtesy Carrie Tingley Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico)*

new public buildings, creating parks, improving farm roads, and, ultimately, restoring its citizens' faith in themselves and their nation. Tingley's pragmatic political instincts were reinforced and broadened by his life partner, Carrie. Her success in "chasing the cure" to overcome tuberculosis imbued her with a commitment to help others facing the challenges of poverty and ill health. A privileged only-child, she and Clyde had no children. Instead, she directed her energies toward helping others. Carrie's longtime friend William A. Keleher stated, "her hands and purse . . . have never been withheld to help cure the sick, to bury the dead, and to say a kind word of sympathy and consolation to those left behind." During the 1920s, as the wife of Albuquerque's ex-officio mayor, she "modestly and quietly, saw that things were done for poor children—a pair of shoes, a new doll or a longed for toy airplane, especially for holidays, Easter, Christmas, Memorial Day and birthdays."[9] During this period, Carrie kept a notebook of her visits to the sick and infirm, listing as many as 125 calls a month.[10]

As Clyde's political influence grew, Carrie's generous actions expanded commensurately, extending to the entire state when Clyde became governor. Increasingly, Carrie's attention turned to children; nothing was closer to her "heart than doing things for the kiddies" or finding "ways to make life gayer for somebody's children."[11] Thus, during their first months in the Governor's Mansion, the Tingleys began to contemplate establishing a hospital exclusively dedicated to caring for the physically challenged children of New Mexico. Just two months after Clyde was elected governor, he and Carrie attended a banquet in their honor at the Buena Vista Hotel in Hot Springs. With over two hundred people in attendance, Clyde proposed that the town become the site for a hospital treating infantile paralysis. Declaring that the town's mineral springs were "God's gift to health," he envisioned that the facility would be constructed incrementally. To fund the project, he offered a number of possible sources, including charitable donations, proceeds from the annual New Mexico Governor's Ball, and federal support from either the PWA or WPA.[12]

Over the next few months the preliminary steps to realize a children's hospital began. State FERA officials accompanied Governor Tingley to Hot Springs and offered technical advice concerning New Mexico's application for WPA funding of the project. Subsequently, a local hospital committee formed, and the state's WPA architect, Willard C. Kruger, visited the town. In August when Tingley returned to Sierra County for the dedication of the Black Range Highway, he announced that a hospital committee had arranged the purchase of a fourteen-acre parcel of land, with a tourist court, located on a bluff south of town for ten thousand dollars. Tingley also stated that officials at the New Mexico State Penitentiary had agreed to provide 475,000 hollow tile bricks for the project. And when Tingley traveled to Washington, D.C., to confer about the PWA project at Conchas Dam in Quay County, he discussed the hospital plans with WPA officials.[13]

By the fall of 1935, the Tingleys' vision of a hospital for children with polio and other crippling diseases had begun to materialize. Local leaders, now joined by the New Mexico Federation of Women's Club, began to raise funds, acquire the property, and, with Governor Tingley's leadership, secure firm commitments from the State Penitentiary for bricks and from the National Forest Service for construction timbers. Local relief rolls in Sierra County provided lists of unemployed residents eligible for the labor paid by the federal government. At this point, the proposed project received further impetus when President Roosevelt took a personal interest in it.

In his unpublished history of the Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children, Dr. William L. Minear observed that Clyde "probably had in mind President Roosevelt's poliomyelitis and the Warm Springs Georgia Foundation." He further noted, "at the time, it was believed that the hot mineral water was beneficial in the treatment of poliomyelitis."[14] Certainly, Roosevelt's experiences following his contraction of polio in 1921 at his summer home in Campobello, New Brunswick, impacted his perspective. After three years of pursuing expert medical treatment with New York's leading doctors and seeing few results, Roosevelt resorted to a regimen of helio and hydrotherapy in an attempt to restore the muscles in his legs. On the recommendation of a friend, he sought treatment at the Meriwether Inn, a dilapidated Civil War–era resort in Warm Springs, Georgia. Between 1924 and 1927, Roosevelt spent more than half of each year at the resort. He eventually purchased the property in 1927 and renovated it so that other "polios," as the disease's victims termed themselves, could benefit from the resort's therapeutic warm waters. Although he never regained muscle strength

in his legs, through great effort Roosevelt was able to give the appearance of walking with the assistance of one of his sons or an aide standing beside him and providing subtle support.

Roosevelt selected architect Henry J. Toombs to renovate the property. Suggestive of the plans of Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia campus, Toombs incorporated colonnaded porticos and adjacent pavilions into the design and construction of the resort's new building, Georgia Hall. Roosevelt also constructed his personal cottage, known as the Little White House during his presidency, nearby. He would die there in 1945. Renaming the facility the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation in 1927, Roosevelt persuaded the American Orthopedic Association to approve it as a "permanent hydrotherapeutic center" and, in 1934, he sought to underwrite the foundation's expenses through his annual Birthday Balls.[15] In New Mexico, Tingley chaired Roosevelt's local Birthday Balls until Roosevelt's staff, seeking to dispel any appearance of impropriety with money being sent to the White House, created the March of Dimes to receive and expend future contributions.

Remaining a fervent advocate of hydrotherapy for polio victims, Roosevelt summoned Tingley to San Diego, California, in October 1935 and introduced him to Keith Morgan, vice president of the Warm Springs Foundation. The meeting significantly advanced Tingley's plans for a hospital in Hot Springs when Roosevelt proposed that Kruger meet with Toombs and visit the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation. Aware that the project at Hot Springs would be entirely new, Roosevelt felt that Kruger could render a better design informed by the lessons learned at Warm Springs. A month later, WPA director Harry Hopkins announced that the proposal for the project in Hot Springs had been approved and funded for $275,000. Over the next twenty-eight months the WPA made two additional appropriations totaling $47,000 to complete the hospital staff's quarters and power plant.[16]

Once funds were appropriated, little time was lost in moving ahead with the project. Kruger undertook a series of visits to orthopedic hospitals around the country, met Toombs in Warm Springs, and then hosted Toombs in Hot Springs. When Toombs, now in the position of consulting architect, visited the Hot Springs site with Kruger in January 1936, he recommended that the entire plan be on a single plane and that only staff quarters be located on a second story. He also advocated wide halls so that children, whether in wheelchairs or beds, could move or be moved about freely. Toombs's suggestions were based on the challenges posed by the design of the Warm Springs facility. Most notable among Toombs's concerns were the varied

contours of the Warm Springs site and the incremental growth of the facility. With its rolling hills, the uneven grounds of the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation made moving about the complex difficult for patients with crutches, in wheelchairs, or in beds. The pools offering hydrotherapy were located in a nearby glen; with Georgia Hall and other residences located along a ridge, patients required wagons for transportation to the thermal baths. Similarly, since the floors in older buildings were often on multiple planes, the staff had to assist patients moving from room to room. The design challenges in Warm Springs, then, helped Kruger and Toombs construct a practical and comfortable site for patients in Hot Springs.[17]

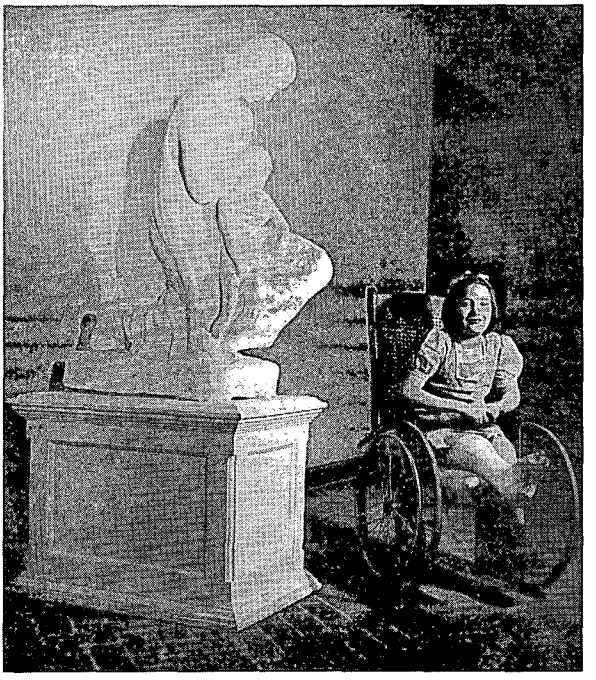
By February 1936, Kruger had completed his preliminary plans, and with New Mexico's most powerful radio station, KOB, providing live coverage of the breaking-ground ceremony, Carrie turned the first shovel.[18] Later that month, construction of the hospital began with an initial crew of fifty workers. Supervising the project was Jesse K. Morrison, who had overseen earlier WPA projects in New Mexico, including the FERA's Public Welfare Building in Santa Fe and additions to the Miners' Hospital in Kruger's hometown, Raton. Over the next fifteen months as the project in Hot Springs moved toward completion, it exemplified the ideal of the WPA—a high degree of cooperation and coordination among various New Deal and federal agencies and its local sponsor, the state of New Mexico.

Locally, Hot Springs residents provided ample and varied support. Having already benefited from previous WPA projects, including the construction of a Spanish-Pueblo Revival style community building, the town's boosters quickly linked Hot Springs with the project. Local landowners contributed an additional sixty-six acres to the original hospital site, increasing it to eighty acres, and additional acreage was added in subsequent years. The site was located on a bluff outside of the thermal basin with no possibility of a hot water well on the property, so the town also dedicated a wellhead within the basin, a half-mile to the north, to the hospital and provided space for a small pump house as well. The town also supplied electricity, free of charge, to the project site. By 1937 the WPA project was an integral part of the town's identity as a health resort—even the letterhead of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce included a rendering of the hospital.

Within a few months, more than two hundred laborers on work relief were employed at the site, laying concrete foundations and erecting the reinforced concrete posts that would support the building's hollow clay-block curtain wall. The bricks fabricated in the kilns located at the State

Penitentiary in Santa Fe and promised by Tingley began to arrive at the Hatch depot, thirty miles to the south, and were shipped at cost by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. Trucks then hauled them to the site. The National Forest Service supplied fir wood, cut in the Gila National Forest, that had been milled for ceiling beams and squared posts to support the building's various porticos.

Besides manpower and building materials, New Mexicans made other contributions to the hospital's construction. Reflecting the synergy of New Deal projects within the state, two sculptures completed under the auspices of the WPA's Federal Arts Projects were designed for the hospital. The artwork added to a notion, embraced by both Roosevelt and Toombs, that children's hospitals should minimize their inherent institutional atmosphere and instead embrace a residential feeling. Oliver La Grone, an art student at the University of New Mexico, completed a mounted life-size likeness of



ILL. 3. MERCY STATUE, 1939
Oliver La Grone sculpted the Mercy Statue as part of the WPA's Federal Arts Project
(Photograph courtesy Carrie Tingley Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico)

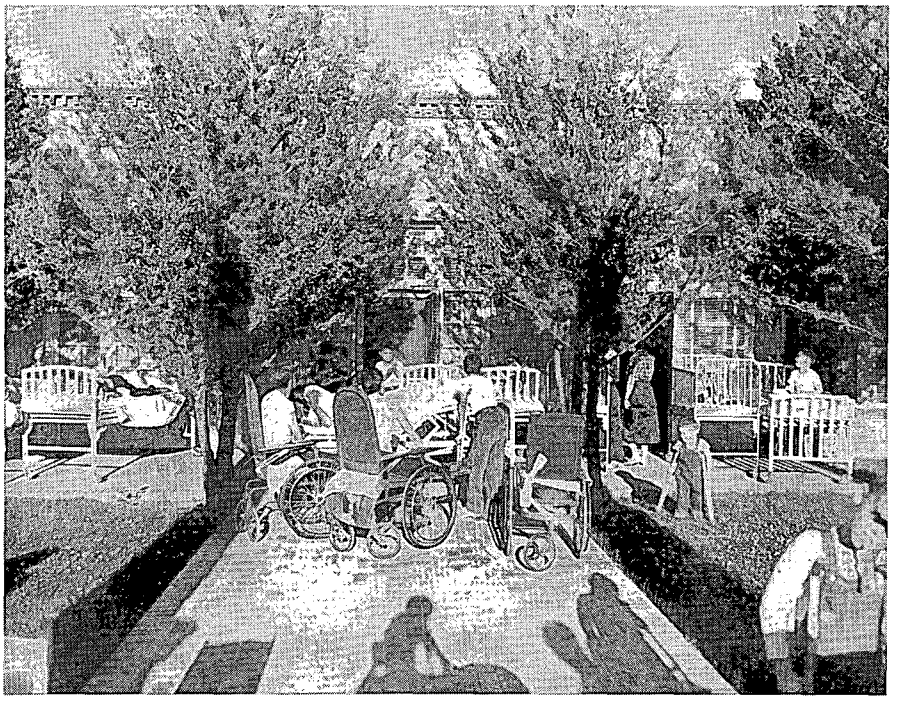
a serene female caressing a child; the sculpture recalled the care La Grone's mother provided him during his own childhood illnesses. In the courtyard behind the hospital's main hall, sculptor Eugenie Shonnard created a large stone fountain decorated with carvings of frogs and turtles. Named the Turtle Courtyard, the space would become a gathering place for the hospital's patients. To provide some of the furnishings for the hospital, young people, hired and trained in manual arts under the National Youth Administration (NYA), fabricated tin ware, leather and wood chairs, and handwoven textiles.

As the hospital took shape in 1937, Kruger's design revealed the lessons he had learned at Warm Springs, as well as the regional sensibilities that began to define much of New Mexico's public architecture under the New Deal. Kruger located all of the patients' private spaces on a single plane. He also placed the operating and therapeutic spaces and the dining hall on the same plane, under a single roof. Moreover, Kruger's design linked the all-important brace-making shop to the hospital with a portico. Early photographs

ILL. 4. PATIENTS HARD AT WORK IN A CLASSROOM AT THE CARRIE TINGLEY HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN
(Photograph courtesy Carrie Tingley Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico)

of the hospital show this ease of movement, depicting children, many of them in wheeled beds, assembled in the dining hall that also functioned as an auditorium for a Saturday night movie. Kruger acknowledged the reality that many patients would remain at the hospital for extended periods, and therefore included a classroom in one of the building's front wings. Finally, consistent with the tenets that Roosevelt had established at Warm Springs, the mineral springs–fed therapy pool offered both indoor and outdoor sections, permitting simultaneous helio and hydrotherapy.

Although New Mexico's arid climate precluded including spacious lawns immediately around the building, Kruger's plan provided for a series of landscaped courtyards. The front wings and portico lining the façade created a broad entry courtyard, while the enclosed Turtle Courtyard lay in the back of the main hallway. To the rear of the second transverse hallway was the Rabbit Courtyard. With the natural light from the courtyards, the amply fenestrated hallways permitted natural light to illuminate most of the building's public spaces. Not only were all the rooms adjacent to the well-lit



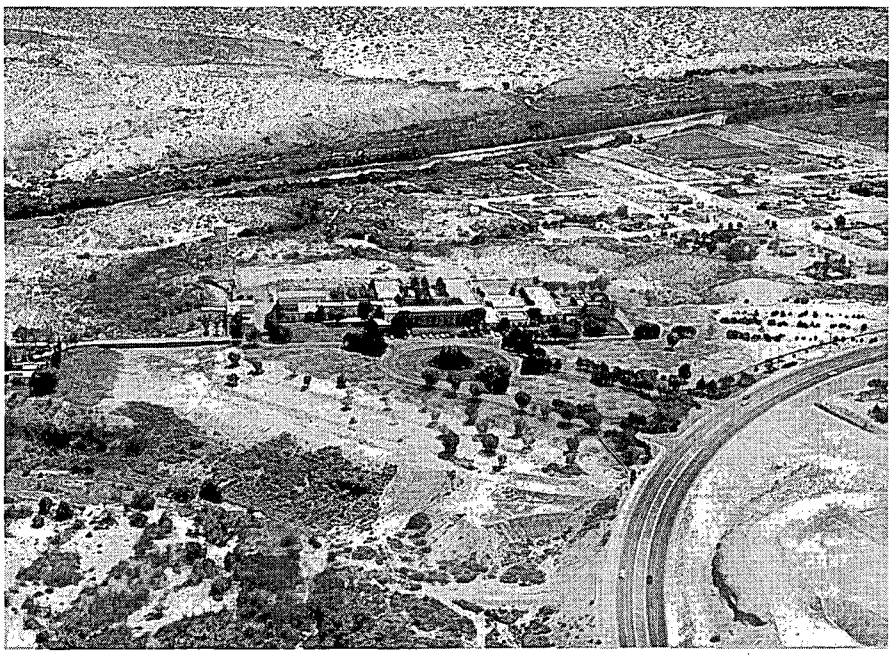
ILL. 5. PATIENTS RECEIVING HELIOTHERAPY IN THE RABBIT COURTYARD
(Photograph courtesy Carrie Tingley Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico)

hallways, but all the rooms had outside windows. Therefore, the structure was designed so that every room was bathed in natural light.

Just as Georgia Hall at Warm Springs employed regionally inspired Georgian Revival details, the new hospital at Hot Springs celebrated its regional history. The building's flat roof, as well as brick-cornice parapets with dentil course moldings and a stately two-story portico lining its façade, demonstrated Kruger's efforts to present a historically inspired style, while serving the needs of a modern hospital. The generous use of large multipane windows, plus sidelights and transoms at principal entries, further complemented the style, while making use of the year-round sunshine that contributed to Hot Springs' reputation as a health resort located in the Southwest's "zone of immunity."

Like other large New Deal projects, such as the PWA-constructed Zimmerman Library at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, the New Mexico Supreme Court Building in Santa Fe, and the WPA-constructed Albuquerque Air Terminal, the hospital's design details revealed the history of the region. During the 1930s, architects such as John Gaw Meem, Gordon Street, and Ernst Blumenthal built modern, functional buildings that also reflected architectural traditions of the area's past. While the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style marked the earliest efforts of this regional revival, the 1930s saw an expanded use of historical design elements such as Classical details that first appeared in some of the territorial-period forts. Termed the Territorial Revival style, examples began to appear in many New Deal–funded projects, including schools, offices, courthouses, and the New Mexico Supreme Court Building. By the end of the New Deal, elements of these styles had been extensively incorporated into new public building construction. Therefore, a lasting and profound legacy of the New Deal was a regional public architecture that defines New Mexico to this day.

As the hospital moved toward completion during 1937, construction of additional support buildings, including the director's home and the power plant, began. An additional pump house capable of raising water from the Rio Grande to irrigate the lawn facing U.S. 85 was constructed on the banks of the river. A landscaping project was also undertaken at this point, which included the construction of a low masonry wall fronting the property and the planting of cypress trees. Governor Tingley demonstrated his enthusiasm for the hospital by frequently making the ten-hour round trip from Santa Fe to inspect the project. In February 1937, he brought the entire state legislature to Hot Springs to view the hospital's progress.[19] Consistent

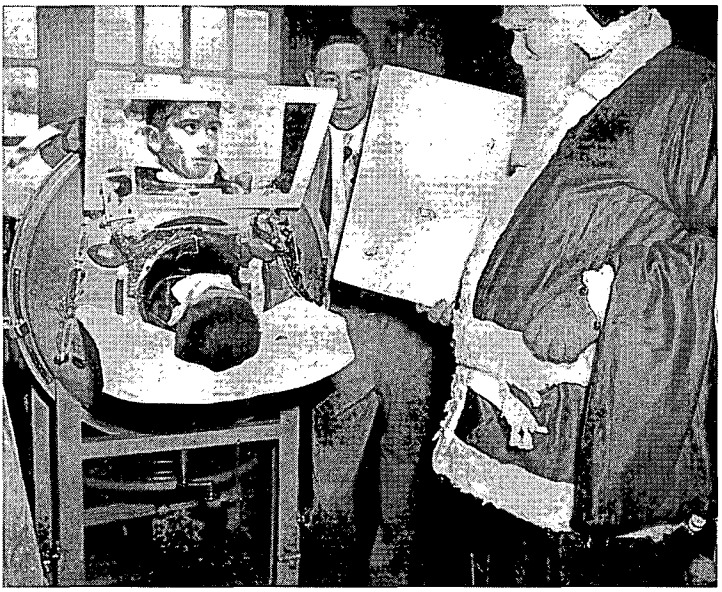


ILL. 6. AERIAL VIEW OF THE CARRIE TINGLEY HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN, CA. 1950
(Photograph courtesy Carrie Tingley Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico)

with his vow that politics would never play a role in the development of the hospital, Tingley declined the invitation of local citizens to name it after him, "but when the name Carrie Tingley Hospital was proposed, he registered only pleasure."[20]

With the dedication approaching in May, Tingley invited President Roosevelt to attend. Unable to do so, Roosevelt instead sent Postmaster General James Farley as his representative. For the dedication, however, the president telegraphed Tingley his "felicitations on the dedication of the Carrie Tingley Hospital," congratulating him on the completion of the project. Striking a tone apparent in letters that he had sent Tingley regarding the hospital, he hoped that the hospital would "grow and prosper and restore to health and happiness all the little patients who find refuge under the friendly roof [of the new hospital]."[21]

The first patients were admitted to the hospital on 1 September 1937. The facility they entered offered "the best obtainable [equipment] of the time."[22] In addition to the two warm mineral pools, the physical therapy department also included a stainless steel Hubbard tub for children who



ILL. 7. SANTA CLAUS VISITING A PATIENT USING AN IRON LUNG
(Photograph courtesy Carrie Tingley Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico)

ILL. 8. THE BRACE MAKER JIMMY CROWNOVER
(Photograph courtesy Carrie Tingley Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico)

required specialized hydrotherapy. There were sterilizers capable of cleansing three mattresses at a time. A state-of-the-art surgical table and a full range of orthopedic instruments filled the operating room, and a postoperative ward stood ready for patients requiring convalescence periods with special diets. The hospital also had its own iron lung and x-ray laboratory. Essential to many patients, the brace shop was fully equipped and staffed by an experienced brace maker who had trained at the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, California. A nurse trained in the Kenny Method, a form of muscular therapy in which moist warm towels were frequently applied to patients' atrophied limbs, also joined the staff. The planners incorporated amenities intended to create a home-like environment at the hospital. The grounds contained a playground, the auditorium had a movie projector, the kitchen boasted ice cream makers, and the classroom had a teacher provided by the Hot Springs Public Schools.

In 1939 the Crippled Children's Division of the U.S. Department of Labor offered an initial assessment of the facility.[23] With incremental funding, the WPA contributed $553,788 to the project, and the state of New Mexico contributed $273,953, much of it to equip the hospital. In percentage terms, the state of New Mexico paid approximately 33 percent of the project's cost, about 10 percent greater than the average cost paid by a sponsor. In the eighteen months after the hospital opened, the New Mexico Department of Public Welfare contributed another $30,000 for hospital equipment, and the state legislature appropriated $120,000 for its annual operation.

ILL. 9. NURSE AND CHILD, MARCH 1951
(Photograph courtesy Carrie Tingley Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico)

Roosevelt and Governor Tingley intended the Carrie Tingley Hospital to be a "new deal" for children with paralysis in New Mexico. A hospital report

released in 1943 offered statistics regarding the patients who had been served at the new facility. Since its opening, the hospital's staff had examined 2,260 children with polio from every county and every ethnic group in New Mexico; 933 of these patients were admitted to the hospital. The hospital administered some twenty thousand treatments, including exercises, helio and hydrotherapy, massages, and walking sessions, and fabricated over seven thousand braces, splints, and other appliances.[24] The statistics told a short history of service to and care of the state's physically challenged children.

One of the first articles about the hospital to reach a broader public readership appeared in *New Mexico* in 1938. Written by Anna Nolan Clark, a frequent contributor, the article focused on how the children adapted to the new hospital's environment. Clark noted that the children hailed from all types of backgrounds but were united by their suffering caused by the ravages of paralysis. The hospital, however, offered an opportunity for "these little soldiers of suffering, fighting inch by inch to gain health, to gain the use of feet, of hands, of poor twisted backs." For Clark the environment was conducive to successful recovery since the building was "beautiful with sunlight and color, and the feeling of movement" throughout the complex. So striking was the contrast with traditional institutions that she felt "this hospital is a world that belongs to the children—a world of their own making."[25] For the forty years that the hospital remained in its first location, this positive attitude continued.

In 1937 New Mexico voters rejected an amendment to the state's constitution that would have permitted a governor to serve more than two consecutive terms. A year later, as Tingley prepared to leave office and to return to Albuquerque, he reflected on what he had accomplished as governor. For the citizens of New Mexico, he prepared a broadside, "Record of Accomplishments," depicting a series of concentric circles divided into slices representing each of the state's counties and his visage in the center. Within each segment of each county slice were statistics listing the projects, such as schools, parks, and roads, that had been completed under his administration. Many were accomplished with New Deal funding.

Tingley also sent President Roosevelt photographs of the Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children. Thanking him for the photos, Roosevelt noted their significance, stating that the completion of the hospital was a "matter very close to my heart."[26] As Tingley prepared to leave office, he received a final letter from Roosevelt in which the president thanked him for his "fine and loyal cooperation" and then noted their mutual efforts "in

that great cause in which we are both so interested, the welfare of handicapped children."[27] Even as the Tingleys left Santa Fe and Clyde regained his seat on the Albuquerque City Commission, they remained involved with the children's hospital, serving on its board of directors. When visiting the hospital, the Tingleys stayed on the second story of the property and Clyde still gave patients rides on his speedboat, *Carrie Tingley*, at Elephant Butte Lake. When Carrie died in 1961, she left $75,000 to the hospital in her will.

During the 1940s and early 1950s, the hospital continued to treat many New Mexican children who succumbed to the polio epidemics that swept across the state. With the invention of the Salk vaccine, funded in part by the March of Dimes, the risk of polio greatly diminished, and the hospital shifted more of its resources to treating children with tuberculosis and congenital birth defects. Dr. George Omer, who joined the staff in the 1970s, notes that during the last decades of widespread polio, the hospital had "national stature for its state of the art polio treatment" and that, beginning in 1948, provided a twelve-month training program in pediatric orthopedics. By the 1960s, residents from both the University of Colorado and University of New Mexico medical schools served resident rotations at the hospital, making it, in Omer's words, the "most important post-graduate institution in the state with a national program."[28]

As the hospital's mission evolved and the staff visited communities around the state through their outreach program, it became more difficult for the facility to retain a complete medical staff at the hospital in the town, recently renamed Truth or Consequences (T or C).[29] As a result, in 1979 the hospital's Medical Advisory Board voted to relocate it to Albuquerque, near the University of New Mexico's School of Medicine. Two years later the New Mexico State Legislature voted to turn the vacant state property in T or C into the New Mexican Veterans' Center. While its patients are of a different generation, many of the facility's resources, including the thermal water pool, therapy rooms, and landscaped courtyards, continue to serve New Mexicans.

Popular perception in New Mexico has long held that the state benefited disproportionately from New Deal programs. This view, in part, arises from the frequent trips that Governor Tingley made to Washington, D.C., the efforts of New Mexico's largely Democratic congressional delegation to bring projects to the state, and state legislation that facilitated the sponsorship of New Deal projects by local governments and authorities. Tingley's aggressive style of lobbying, in fact, prompted Roosevelt's third-term vice president, Henry

Wallace, to describe him as "hard driving in the action to get the most possible out of the federal government" for New Mexico.[30]

In assessing how individual states benefited from the New Deal, historian Leonard Arrington concluded that large, lightly populated states with a small tax base and few state agencies were among those that received the largest per capita share of New Deal funds.[31] Since these states were also likely to have a large percentage of federally owned lands, including forest and grazing lands, national parks and monuments, and Indian reservations, they were also most likely to receive extensive funding for CCC projects as well as Indian-based New Deal programs. In some instances, New Deal monies were also appropriated for highway projects across federal lands that were funded solely by the national government. Thus, from the inception of the New Deal in 1933 until 1941, as the nation began to prepare for eventual entry into World War II, only Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, and Arizona ranked ahead of New Mexico in per capita New Deal funding. As a result, the legacy of the New Deal is often apparent in these states where public works served to transform and expand historically modest state and local government services.

Such was the case with the Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children. A long tradition of health seeking in the Southwest often centered on the use of thermal waters, a growing national interest in providing hydrotherapy for children afflicted by poliomyelitis, and the absence of such a hospital in New Mexico created a need that Clyde and Carrie Tingley articulated. The need fit within the Roosevelt Administration's overarching goal of devising federal programs to support specific projects and ultimately create community programs that would enable citizens to recover from the crippling effects of economic depression. On a personal level, Roosevelt's commitment to advancing ways of overcoming polio resulted in his taking a personal interest in the Carrie Tingley Hospital project. Seventy-five years after the New Deal began, the hospital, now with a different clientele, continues to manifest the legacy of these combined efforts.

Notes

1. David Kammer, "The Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico" (prepared for the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, 1994), 49.
2. George Omer, M.D., interview by author, 4 December 2002. Dr. Omer served at the Carrie Tingley Hospital from the 1970s through the 1990s as an orthopedic surgeon.

3. Hugh Gregory Gallagher, *FDR's Splendid Deception* (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1985), 5.
4. *Sierra County (N.Mex.) Herald*, 9 August 1916.
5. George Hardaway, "Fountains of Youth," *New Mexico Highway Journal*, May 1931, 24.
6. Erna Fergusson, "The Tingleys of New Mexico," p. 235, folder 8, box 13, Erna Fergusson Papers, 1846–1964, MSS 45 BC, Center for Southwest Research, Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico [hereafter EFP, CSWR].
7. WPA Correspondence, Governor Clyde K. Tingley Papers, 1935–1938, Collection 1959–104, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, New Mexico [hereafter TP, NMSRCA].
8. Fergusson, "The Tingleys of New Mexico," p. 240, folder 8, box 13, EFP, CSWR.
9. W[illiam]. L. Minear, "Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children, The Founders," p. 1, William L. Minear Papers, 1933–1990, HHC 15, New Mexico Health Historical Collection, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico [hereafter WMP, HSL]. Dr. Minear was medical director of the hospital from 1947 to 1955.
10. Fergusson, "The Tingleys of New Mexico," p. 124, folder 8, box 13, EFP, CSWR.
11. Ibid., p. 53.
12. *Sierra County (N.Mex.) Advocate*, 3 March 1935.
13. *Sierra County (N.Mex.) Advocate*, 7 July 1935.
14. Minear, "Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children," p. 3, WMP, HSL.
15. Geoffrey C. Ward, *A First-Class Temperament: The Emergence of Franklin Roosevelt* (New York: Harper and Row, 1989), 769. For more on Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, see Richard Thayer Goldberg *The Making of Franklin D. Roosevelt: Triumph over Disability* (Cambridge, Mass.: Abt Books, 1981); and Jean Edward Smith, *FDR* (New York: Random House, 2007).
16. Kammer, "The Historic and Architectural Resources of the New Deal in New Mexico," app. B, 70–71.
17. Toombs regarded Roosevelt, who in 1934 told members of the American Institute of Architects that he had once considered becoming an architect, as a challenging client. Consequently both Toombs and Roosevelt acknowledged ways in which the Warm Springs facility might also be improved. For more on Roosevelt's influence on the Warm Springs design, see William B. Rhoads, "Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Architecture of Warm Springs," *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* 67 (spring 1983): 4.
18. *Sierra County (N.Mex.) Advocate*, 13 February 1936.
19. *Sierra County (N.Mex.) Advocate*, 6 February 1937.
20. Fergusson, "The Tingleys of New Mexico," chap. 12, p. 16, folder 14, box 13, EFP, CSWR. Chapter 12 of Erna Fergusson's manuscript has separate pagination.
21. Roosevelt-Tingley Correspondence, 28 May 1937, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, Hyde Park, New York [hereafter FDRPL].
22. Minear, "Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children," p. 6, WMP, HSL.

23. WPA Correspondence, 651.101, TP, NMSRCA.
24. Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children, *Report 1941–1943*, pp. 22–28, Carrie Tingley Hospital, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
25. Anna Nolan Clark, "You Can See Them Getting Well," *New Mexico*, January 1938, 21–25.
26. Roosevelt-Tingley Correspondence, 25 May 1938, FDRPL.
27. Roosevelt-Tingley Correspondence, 28 December 1938, FDRPL.
28. Omer interview.
29. Hot Springs residents voted to rename the town Truth or Consequences in 1950.
30. Henry A. Wallace to Erna Fergusson, 10 November 1956, folder 3, box 13, EFP, CSWR.
31. Leonard J. Arrington, "The New Deal in the West: A Preliminary Statistical Inquiry," *Pacific Historical Review* 38 (August 1969): 315.