

Patients pose for a photo outside a building at St. Luke's Sanatorium during the facility's early years.

St. Luke's Sanatorium

Although it's renowned as the site of the first open-heart surgery in Phoenix and several pioneering medical procedures, St. Luke's started out as an obscure tuberculosis facility made up of 12 tents and 20 beds.

NOAH AUSTIN

For more than 100 years, St. Luke's Medical Center has been caring for patients in Phoenix. But as you can see in the photo above, the state-of-the-art hospital we know today had a more humble beginning — and a more specialized mission.

The Rev. Julius W. Atwood founded St. Luke's Home in his wife's memory in 1907. Back then, the facility was 20 beds in 12 tents, all dedicated to treating tuberculosis patients. Former President Theodore Roosevelt visited St. Luke's to dedicate a 10-bed infirmary in 1911; the same year, St. Luke's became Arizona's first bacteriological and brachytherapy laboratory, but it continued to focus on tuberculosis patients through World War I.

In 1919, St. Luke's Home was renamed St. Luke's Sanatorium and expanded its services to begin treating other respiratory ailments. It also expanded the physical facility, enabling it to care for 80 patients. More expansions followed, and the sanatorium became St. Luke's Hospital and began practicing general medicine after World War II. In the early 1950s, around the time he began his first stint as a U.S. senator, Barry Goldwater

led a community effort that funded an additional 60 beds for the hospital.

St. Luke's was the site of the first open-heart surgery in Phoenix, in 1960; the following year, surgeons there pioneered the practice of covering the heart with ice to induce a form of hibernation during surgery. "This new kind of open-heart operation ... marks an important advance in the technical ability of the surgeon as well as the safety of the patient," a St. Luke's publication noted in 1961.

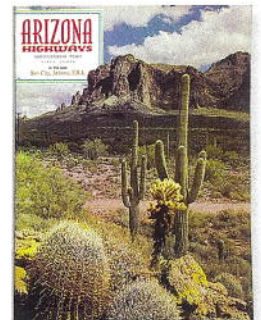
Later milestones at the hospital included Arizona's first pacemaker implant, in 1973; first cochlear implants, in 1985; and first partial knee replacement via a form of robotic-arm technology, in 2010. Along the way, St. Luke's has gone through several expansions and remodels, and it's added facilities dedicated to behavioral health, ophthalmology and outpatient rehabilitation, among other specialties.

Today, St. Luke's Medical Center is owned by IASIS Healthcare and boasts more than 200 beds — a far cry from the 20-bed tuberculosis center the good reverend created more than a century ago.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

- On November 1, 1867, Tucson officially replaces Prescott as the capital of Territorial Arizona.
- Thomas E. Campbell apparently is elected Arizona's governor by just 30 votes on November 7, 1916. He serves as governor for nearly a year, but after a legal battle, incumbent Governor George W.P. Hunt is declared the winner and returns to office.
- Prohibition agents pour 1,000 gallons of confiscated liquor into the Salt River on November 23, 1923.
- On November 25, 1878, the Gunsight Mine southeast of Ajo is discovered. It later produces gold, silver, copper and other ores. Today, it's inactive.

50 YEARS AGO IN ARIZONA HIGHWAYS



Sun City, "Arizona's newest and largest community designed specifically for the comfort, convenience and well-being of retired sun-seekers," was the focus of the November 1967 issue of *Arizona Highways*. On the front cover was David Muench's photo of the Superstition Mountains, as viewed from the Apache Trail.

PHOENIX St. Luke's Medical Center, 1800 E. Van Buren Street, 602-251-8100, www.stlukesmedcenter.com