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THE
DAILY STAR

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DAILY

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Hospital begins building

Ground was broken on the Seventh Ward Hospital grounds for a \$2-million regional cancer treatment facility Friday.

The facility will be operated by a non-profit organization, Cancer, Radiation and Research Foundation, which owns and operates the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, Baton Rouge. The 8,000-square-foot facility here will serve as a satellite to the Baton Rouge facility.

The center here will provide cancer treatment to patients residing in Tangipahoa, eastern Livingston, western St. Tammany, Washington and St. Helena Parishes and the southwestern portion of Mississippi, Perkins Executive Director Michael Martin said.

"Our decision to build a satellite treatment facility in Hammond was made in response to a critical need for a radiation oncology provider in this area of the state," Martin said.

The Hammond facility is to be completed late next year. It will offer the three traditional forms of cancer treatment: radiation therapy, chemotherapy and surgical oncology.

The center will house two linear accelerators, state-of-the-art radiation therapy machines and a simulator which is an X-ray machine used in pre-treatment planning.

The general contractor is Ragusa Brothers, Hammond.



DIGGING IN—A groundbreaking ceremony was held to mark the beginning of the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center Hammond facility, on the Seventh Ward Hospital grounds, recently. Pictured are, from left, Dr. Sheldon Johnson, Perkins medical director; Angelo Lacara, Seventh Ward General Hospital board vice-chairman; Raymond Shafer, Seventh Ward board chairman; Dr. Jack

Rathbone, Perkins board president; Dr. Ellienne Tate, Seventh Ward board member; Dr. Paul Vega, Seventh Ward board member; Dr. Frederic Billings, Perkins board member; and Dr. John Munson, Perkins board member. (Staff Photo by Randy Bergeron)

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METROPOLITAN

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Groundbreaking ceremonies were held recently for the new Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center to be located near Seventh Ward Hospital. The \$2 million satellite treatment center will usher in a new era in cancer treatment capabilities for Louisiana's Florida parishes by enabling most of the area's cancer patients to get a multi-disciplinary approach to treatment. Participating in the ceremony were, from left, Dr. Sheldon Johnson, Perkins Medical Center director; Angelo

Lacara, vice chairman of the Perkins board; Raymond Schafer, chairman of the Seventh Ward board; Dr. Jack Rathborne, member of the Perkins board; Ellienne Tate, Seventh Ward board member; Dr. Paul Vega, Seventh Ward board member; Dr. Frederick Bellop, Perkins board member; and John Munson, Perkins board member.

[Enterprise photo by Duane Harris]

AMITE, LA.

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METROPOLITAN
From Elphing, Bismarck of La.

NOV-19-86

Hammond Cancer Center holds ground breaking

Formal groundbreaking ceremonies were held Nov. 14, in Hammond for a regional cancer treatment facility to be constructed on the campus of Seventh Ward General Hospital, by the not-for-profit foundation which owns and operates the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in Baton Rouge.

The 8,000-square-foot cancer center will be totally owned by the Baton Rouge-based Cancer, Radiation and Research Foundation and will be operated as a satellite facility of the main Perkins center in Baton Rouge.

The new Hammond center is expected to provide cancer treatment to cancer patients residing in five southeastern Louisiana parishes, as well as the southwestern portion of Mississippi, said Perkins Executive Director Michael H. Martin.

"Our decision to build a satellite treatment facility in Hammond was made in response to a critical need for a radiation oncology provider in this area of the state," said Martin. "Presently, cancer patients in the Hammond area who require radiation therapy

are forced to travel to Baton Rouge, New Orleans or even farther for treatment."

The Perkins satellite facility will serve patients in Tangipahoa, eastern Livingston, western St. Tammany, Washington and St. Helena parishes.

According to Dr. Sheldon A. Johnson, Perkins medical director, the radiation oncology program at the Hammond center will fill a tremendous void in the area's cancer treatment capabilities.

"The average patient receiving radiation therapy is treated on a daily basis for a four-to-six-week period," said Johnson. "For patients in the Hammond area, this means that they must travel to a distant treatment facility everyday or bear the considerable expense and inconvenience of living away from home for the duration of their treatment programs. This can be extremely difficult for patients who are critically ill or who are on fixed incomes."

When construction is completed in late 1987, patients at the Hammond center will have all three

traditional forms of cancer treatment, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and surgical oncology, available to them in the community.

"Many cancer patients benefit from a multidisciplinary approach to cancer treatment where more than a single treatment modality is used," said Johnson. "We are very pleased about the capabilities for comprehensive cancer management that will be available in the immediate Hammond area with the opening of the satellite facility."

The center has been designed to house two state-of-the-art radiation therapy machines, called linear accelerators, and a simulator, a sophisticated x-ray machine used in pre-treatment planning.

Cost of constructing and equipping the new facility will approach \$2 million. General contractor is Ragusa Brothers of Hammond.