



Tuberculosis was a leading disease in 1900, killing millions worldwide, tens of thousands in the U.S., and thousands in Wisconsin.

Life was not easy for patients at Lake View sanatorium. Most came from Madison and smaller Dane County communities. Most were young, in their 20s and 30s. Common occupations of patients in 1933 included housewife, farmer, laborer, school child, nurse, store clerk, stenographer, student, maid, teacher, and mechanic.

“It was quite a building and on a hill like that—it was like a palace. Except you were a prisoner no matter what. It was boring. There wasn’t much to do. If it hadn’t been for the radio and books, I would’ve lost my mind.”

— Katherine, Lake View patient



“Miss Edith Dopp, Lakeview typing instructor, states that typing students for her class are in great demand. All on ex. 6 and above who would like to take typing see her on Mon., Wed., or Fri. for enrollment. (at 5 PM)”

— *Lakeviews Monthly*, January 1953



“Some patients have expressed their interest in photography and it seems fitting to suggest forming a Camera Club. This group would hold round (or square) table discussions with cameras on hand and exchange ideas and knowledge in camera techniques. Several advanced ‘Photo Bugs’ have indicated their willingness to instruct a group in developing and printing. Paul Rasmussen of the Rehab Dep’t. says that we have one of the finest dark rooms in the state. Here is an opportunity to learn to use your camera and getting the most from it.”

— *Lakeviews Monthly*, January 1953

“It is with a tear in our eye and a flutter in our heart that we this week announce the discharge of one of our more prominent alumni, one of the truly greats of Lake View, a former member of the *View Point* Staff, the idol of the males and females alike, a gentleman in the eyes of all and one that 2nd floor is proud and privileged to have numbered among its personnel, a man who has cheated the grim reaper and is now truly ready to return to the work of industry in restored health and vigor. That gentleman and scholar, better known as Kelly, received his honorable discharge last week and departed from these hallowed premises on Sunday to resume his niche in the outside world.”

— *The View Point*, Aug. 13, 1938



“Harry, in 322, is from Madison and worked at the Kipp. He is married, has a son and daughter, and stated, “There is nothing else to know about me, except that I’m anxiously waiting to get outside.”

— *Lake Views*, October/November 1944



“Tuberculosis is a disease most prevalent between the ages of 15 and 40, a time of life when the loss of time and loss of life is most costly to the community. During these periods the father and the mother are most needed by their children and by the community, and the loss of a father and mother at this period is most costly to the community. Most other diseases taking a heavy toll of life take their victims at a later period, largely after 40, when the loss of life to the family and to the community is often not so keenly felt.”

— Lake View Sanatorium, *Third Annual Report*, 1932-1933

**INCREASED VISITING HOURS FOR CHILDREN**

Beginning February 15 all patients who have been negative for three months may have their children visit them, in their rooms. Patients are asked to heed a few simple rules:

1. One Sunday visit per month.
2. Children must wear a mask while in patient’s room.
3. Children are not permitted on beds.
4. Patients are requested not to embrace children.
5. Allow nursing staff to remove mask and see that child has his or her hands washed before leaving the building.

— *Lakeviews Monthly*, February 1953



“Over across the hall in 321 we find Ed and Art. Ed is making billfolds and feeding the squirrels that are in the room at night. Art is taking life easy and keeping an eye on Ed, which is a full time job.”

— *Lakeviews Bi-Monthly*, November/December 1953

“We often snuck off the ground and sat on the tombstones out back behind Lakeview Lutheran Church—just to get away from the building. Someone had a key to the church under a rock or bush, and some patients would go smoke in the church. They even hid things, like liquor, there.”

— Katherine, Lake View patient

IMAGE CREDITS Top left National Register of Historic Places. All others, left to right, top to bottom Wisconsin Historical Society: WHS-62860, WHS-53853, WHS-96599, WHS-72557, WHS-72565, WHS-96586, WHS-62863, WHS-96590, WHS-19276, WHS-50094.