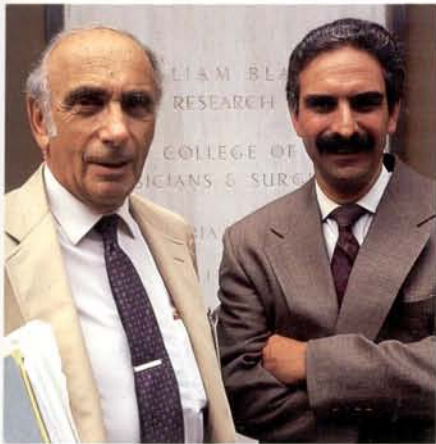


HELLMAN CONSTRUCTION: THE BUILDING DOCTOR



Ron Hellman's typical work day can put him at Montefiore Medical Center at 7:00 a.m., take him downtown to the Hospital for Joint Diseases and a new neo-natal care unit at St. Vincent's, then uptown to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and Mt. Sinai, only to end up at 6:00 p.m. across the river at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck.

Hellman isn't a visiting doctor. Or a high priced medical consultant. No, he's President of **Hellman Construction Company**, a company founded by his father, Jack, in 1946 as a Long Island-based general contractor which today focuses on the highly specialized field of hospital construction.

In the beginning Hellman was a one-man shop. Jack Hellman did the sales calls, the bidding, the building. "I figured that the new residents (of Long Island) all had one thing in common," says Jack. "They were what Life magazine was calling 'the new consumers.' So I focused early on the commercial real estate market." Hellman helped build what is now known as the first, "Miracle Mile," namely Northern Boulevard in Manhasset on Long Island's glittering north shore.

"My father built a company based on relationships," says Ron. "Today we're working with clients we've

been with since the early 60s. We believe in doing only high-quality work. We still do our own carpentry and cabinet work. Our own plaster, masonry and dry wall. We're able to maintain the highest levels of quality because we employ the most experienced workers in the field."

At Baker 17, a former general hospital ward at the Cornell Medical Center, Hellman on this day is completely gutting the floor to accommodate a state-of-the-art AIDS In-Patient Unit, a one-of-a kind facility. Experienced Mason Tenders like **Stanley Stochel** of Local 104 are providing Hellman needed skills to make this project a success. The AIDS unit is part of the largest hospital modernization program in the country. Dozens of independent projects are underway here totalling well over \$500 million dollars in contracts.

So, how did a general contractor that made its mark on Long Island's Miracle Mile turn itself into a master builder in the health care field? Once again, the Hellmans spotted a trend and made their move. Once again, they were there at the start. "From 1946 to 1963 we were just a Long Island construction company," says Jack. "Then, early in 1963, we got our first shot in the city. It was a reconstruction project for Columbia Presbyterian in Washington Heights. It was an opportunity for early involvement in the planning stages. And as it turned out, it was the beginning of a long-term relationship with the hospital."

While managements came and went in the years that followed, the buildings remained. New needs arose. New construction was planned. And year after year, Hellman was asked to bid on — and kept winning — subsequent projects at the sprawling medical center.

To date, the company has com-

pleted or is involved in over 40 significant construction projects just for Columbia Presbyterian. In 1970, Hellman built the hospital's first OB/GYN Intensive Care Unit. In 1971, it rebuilt the entire 12 floors of Babies Hospital. More recently, Hellman completed the Center for Population and Family, a school-based clinic, and put finishing touches on a multi-million-dollar renovation of the seventh floor School of Dental and Oral Surgery.

Columbia Presbyterian is but one of a host of hospitals and educational facilities that Hellman has served over the years. There's Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, The Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Manhattan. The company has built for Harlem Hospital, for Rockefeller and New York Universities and Howard Hughes Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., St. Vincents Hospital, Beth Israel, Long Island Jewish, St. Agnes Hospital, and The Hospital for Joint Diseases.

"Not only do we maintain long-term relationships with our clients, we do the same with our men," says Ron. "I'm working today with sons of Mason Tenders my father worked with in the early 60s. There's **Jerry Feldman** over at Montefiore. He's running the whole show for us there. The hospital actually requested that he be their contact with us. **Roger Denahan** has been with us for over 20 years at Columbia Presbyterian. And there's the two generations of **Bobbie McDivitt's** family. They are many more I could name, and they are all part of our family. It's the secret of our success."

(l-r, above) Jack Hellman began an LI general contracting firm in the 40s that son Ron today runs as a specialty contractor in hospital construction.