



SARAH BOWEN

Born in Nanking, China of missionary parents, Sarah Bowen had always wanted to return there as a missionary doctor. But because China was closed to missionaries during the 1930's, she looked for an opportunity in America.

Challenged by the prevalent superstitions among many of the people in northern New Mexico, and the lack of medical care available, Dr. Sarah Bowen accepted a call in April, 1932 to be Physician at the Brooklyn College Hospital in Dixon, NM and Chief Doctor for all the surrounding area. She set up regular monthly clinics in many communities, either in the mission schools or in Presbyterian churches, and gave health examinations to all the pupils in the mission schools. She also set up weekly prayer meetings in Spanish, conducted in the hospital by the minister and elders of the local church.

As demands increased and services expanded, additional staff came to supplement the overworked mission personnel. The little hospital was stretched beyond its limitations, and both the community and the Board of National Missions realized that a larger hospital was needed. In 1940, Embudo Hospital, located nearby but on the main highway, was completed and put into active use. Dr. Bowen served there until 1960, healing whoever needed her skills, caring for those distressed in mind and spirit as well as those sick in body, in the name of the Great Physician.