

Dedication of Hunter Health Clinic set for this weekend

Kansas Attorney General Bob Stephan will be the keynote speaker and Secretary of State Jack Brier will be on hand for the dedication ceremony of the Hunter Health Clinic, formally known as the Wichita Urban Indian Health Center, Inc., on Saturday, September 28.

More than 1,000 invitation have been sent to national, state, and local officials and community leaders for this dedication ceremony.

In 1982, based on a National Department of Health and Human Services evaluation of the 37 Urban Indian Clinics, the Hunter Health Clinic received a "Superior" rating, one of only three to merit this distinction.

Since its incorporation in June of 1980, the Hunter Health Clinic has grown to become a full service, comprehensive health center to more than 2,400 Indians from 62 tribes in Sedgwick County. Now the

clinic is expanding its operation to answer the needs of the other medically underserved in the Wichita area.

"We're taking the lead as a private, non-profit Indian Medical Corporation, branching out to help those who are verifiably medically underserved," explained Bert Steeves, executive director of the clinic. "We're targeting the working person who falls between the cracks of medical care and coverage.

"By expanding our service area, we will be carrying on the spirit and work that the Hunters began and continued until their passing."

The late Jay and Vera Hunter, for whom the clinic is being renamed, were prominent local Indian leaders who bridged many gaps between the Indian and non-Indian communities.

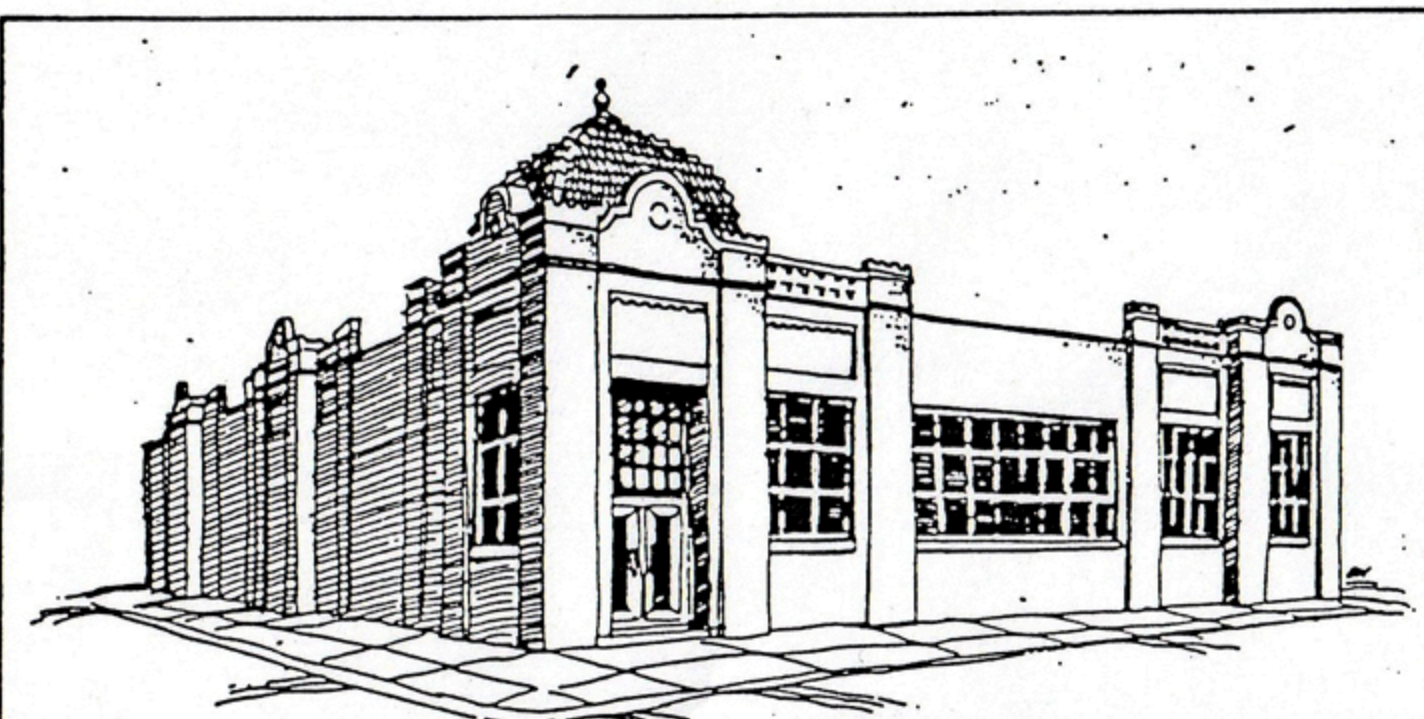
Mr. Hunter, who died in 1981, served as Executive Director of the Mid-American All Indian Center from 1971 to 1979. He taught in the Sedgwick County school system for 16 years, and sat on the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews from 1973 until his death.

Mrs. Hunter held the position of Indian Student Advisor for the Wichita public schools from 1974 until her death in 1984. She was a teacher in the Wichita area for much of her life, as well as working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Institute of Logopedics.

The Hunters were honored in 1979 by the Kansas Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews for their long and outstanding work in the Indian community. Their children and grandchildren will gather from across the country to attend Saturday's ceremony.

"We hope the public will come and help the clinic celebrate its new name and its future role for the medically underserved in this area," Steeves said.

The ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. in front of the clinic at 2318 East Central.



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