The State Legislature of Texas, in 1941, appropriated $500,000 for a cancer hospital and division of cancer research to be affiliated with the University of Texas at Houston. The same year an additional $500,000 was made available by the M. D. Anderson Foundation, a trust established in 1936 by Monroe D. Anderson (1873–1939), of Houston, to advance medical and educational philanthropies in his native city.

Between 1942 and 1954, the first clinical and laboratory sections were established on the James A. Baker estate, Houston, and were named the M. D. Anderson Hospital for Cancer Research of the University of Texas. Dr. Ernest W. Bertner (1889–1950) was appointed Acting Director in 1942; he was succeeded in 1946 by Dr. R. Lee Clark (b. 1906), who assumed and retains the title, Director and Surgeon-in-Chief of the M. D. Anderson Hospital for Cancer Research.

In 1954, a modern hospital and research complex were opened at the Texas Medical Center in downtown Houston. To designate its expanded scope to a full range of cancer services and studies, the institute was renamed The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute.

The cover illustrates the present hospital and research complex (upper left), and the stable and carriage house at the Baker estate (lower left), converted into laboratories for the biochemistry and biology departments of the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston, in 1942. The portrait is of Dr. R. Lee Clark. (See: The First Twenty Years of the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute Publication, Houston, Texas, 1964.) Appreciation is extended to Dr. Clark for all three photographs used for this cover.