

The Security News

Section 2, Pages 31 - 32

This pamphlet is promoting the home and hospital section of the Security Benefit Association in Topeka, Kansas. The facility was located west of Sixth Avenue in Topeka, Kansas and was owned and operated by the fraternal organization. The 400-acre grounds consisted of a hospital, retirement home, children's home, a school and greenhouse. In the 1950s the cooperative farm was abandoned when the company ceased to be a fraternal organization and became primarily a life insurance company known as Security Benefit Life. The land was later sold to the Menninger Foundation. Today only a few structures of the original campus remain.

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Our Sylvan Lake

A Forest Drive

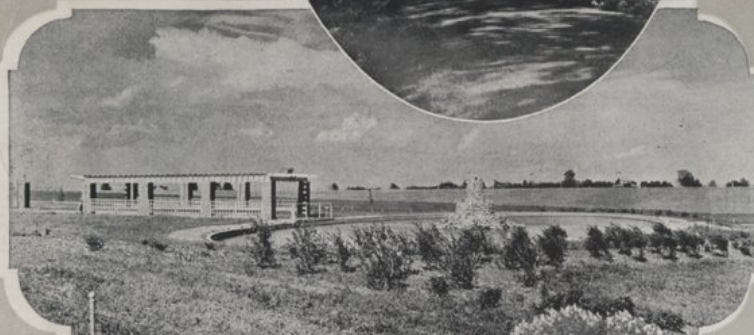
Nature's Gift

The natural beauty of our Home and Hospital Farm is transcendent. From the lofty eminence on which the buildings rest a magnificent panorama unfolds to the horizon's rim, look which way you will. Nowhere in this beautiful land of ours has nature dealt with more lavish hand, and resident and visitor alike are lost in rapture as their gaze rests upon the beautiful view.



Man's Handicraft

Architects, landscape artists, road builders, each have given their best in the construction of buildings, in laying out the grounds in beautiful form and in building miles of wonderful drives over the farm. The Hospital, Dormitories, School House, Auditorium and the many needful structures on the farm are the acme of perfection for useful service, the delight of every admirer of the beautiful.



In the Oval—A view of the beautiful river road on the north slope of the farm.

Left—Our Hospital convalescent enjoy this Pergola, with its beautiful lake and rustic fountain.*

Right—Our thoroughbred Holsteins enjoy the shade of the trees and the cooling waters of the lakes which dot the farm.





Above—Transmission Line Tunnel and Sidewalk.



Oval—A Sleeping Porch for Our Boys in Dormitory A.



Left—Entrance and Corridor, Dormitory A.

Right—Popular Place in the Children's Building, the Dining Room.



September of that year a big dedicatory ceremony was held, attended by thousands of our members. The building was not then nearly completed but the Home and Hospital spirit engendered at that gathering gave new impetus to the work and added materially to the monthly contributions, so that on the first of June, 1919, the building had been completed and furnished and the first residents were received. In the beginning it was necessary to house both the orphaned children and the aged members in the same building, but upon the com-

pletion of the second dormitory for the old folks, Dormitory A was used for children only, and has been kept well filled with as happy a family of youngsters as could be found anywhere on earth. Originally this building had its own heating and lighting plant, but now a central heating plant supplies all the buildings. A tunnel for the transmission lines goes from Dormitory A to the heating plant and thence to Dormitory B. One can easily walk through this underground passageway, or as will be seen in the picture at the top of this page, one can walk on top of the tunnel, as its upper surface is a concrete sidewalk leading from the children's building to Dormitory B, a distance of 500 yards.

Children Have All the Comforts of a Real Home.

While it is true that no one can take the place of a father and mother in the life of a child, it is equally true that in our Home we come as near to it as it is humanly possible. The health, the comfort, the education and training for useful lives of our little ones is near to the hearts of those in charge. School time, work time and play time come in regular sequence. In the large beautifully appointed living room, a splendid library affords ample opportunity for reading. There reference works are also available and the children are encouraged in seeking knowledge. Musical instruments and a phonograph add their share in pleasant and profitable pastime.

For the playtime our children are better supplied than most with the dolls and toys that mean so much to little ones, for our members and councils are very kind in their gifts to our children. In the summer of 1919 the Chicago councils presented the children of the Home with a half dozen Shetland ponies, with saddles, harness and carts. The herd has grown considerably, and one of the real pleasures of our boys and girls is in riding and driving over the farm and on the nearby highways.

Of course, the children have their own rooms, and they are trained to keep them neat and home-like as soon as they are old enough to assume in some measure the responsibility. A kindly matron is ever ready with helpful suggestions, and with her aid the rooms are really models of orderliness. Good taste and neatness characterize the rooms which are our children's very own. The big sleeping porch is a delightful place and the boys who have this cheery place as their abode feel that they are especially favored.

In this pleasant Home our children will live until they are educated and fitted to go out and meet life's battles on an equal footing with those whom fate has not deprived of their parents.

Below—Dormitory A, the Children's Building, and a part of the Happy Family.

