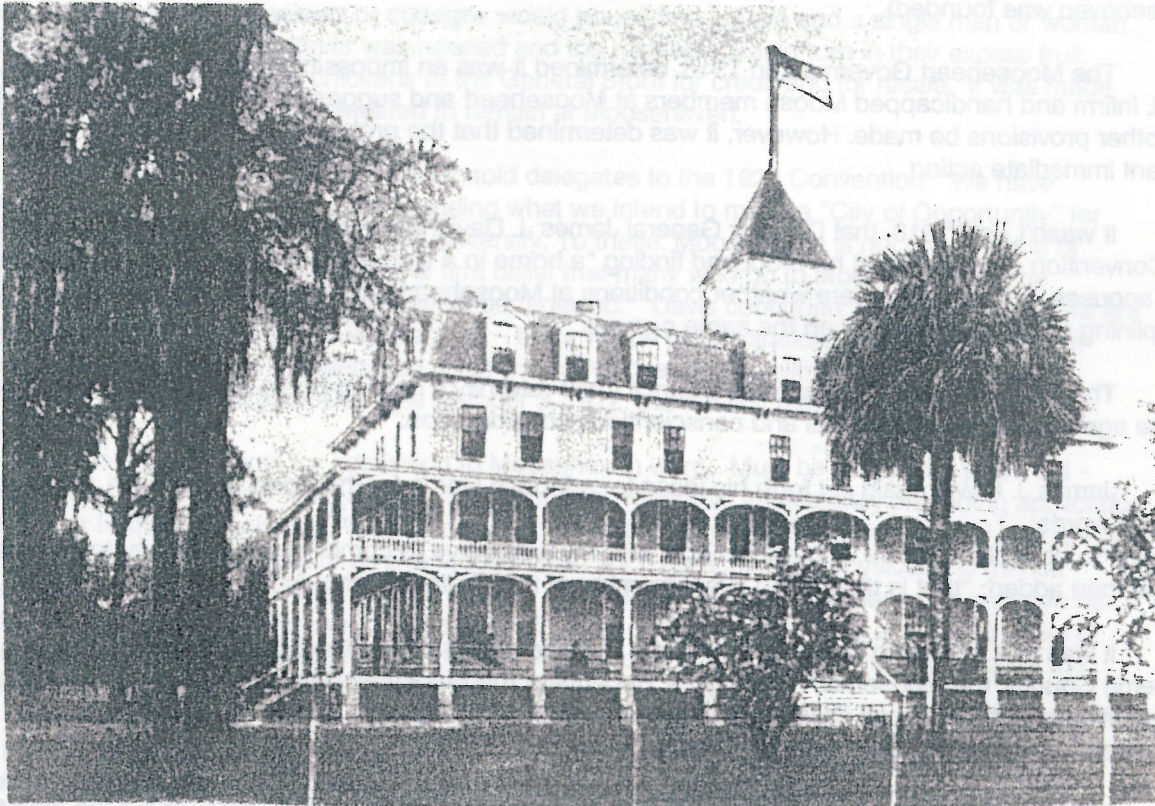


History of Moosehaven

\$1.00 Donation

Moosehaven The City of Opportunity



Hotel Marion - Brandon Hall

*By: Robert T. Cottingham
Moosehaven Resident*

History of Moosehaven By Robert T. Cottingham

The history of Moosehaven (City of Contentment) is inextricably interwoven with the history of Mooseheart (The Child City).

It was at the Moose Convention in Baltimore in 1910 that the Fraternity first considered an idea proposed by the Muncie, Indiana Lodge regarding a school/home for orphaned children of Moose members. The 1911 Convention in Detroit, Michigan approved the plans that made Mooseheart possible.

It wasn't until the 1920 Convention that the delegates, in the Legion Report were reminded that "when Mooseheart was started in 1913, it was the plan of the Moose Fraternity to provide a place there for aged members, too."

In 1915, Mooseheart did begin to take in a few disabled Moose members, who technically became "employees" and were assigned whatever tasks their physical or mental condition permitted. They must have been Moose members for at least five years to be eligible for this service. Subsequently, the U.S. Government contracted with the Fraternity to provide job training which would enable Moose veterans of World War I to return to society as useful citizens. (This program continued until 1922 when Moosehaven was founded).

The Mooseheart Governors, in 1916, determined it was an impossible task to provide for the aged, infirm and handicapped Moose members at Mooseheart and suggested to the Fraternity's leaders that other provisions be made. However, it was determined that the problem was not severe enough to warrant immediate action.

It wasn't until 1918, that Director General James J. Davis, the Fraternity's leader, in his report to the Convention delegates that he proposed finding "a home in a warmer climate for aged members and their spouses, because of severe weather conditions at Mooseheart, and the problems involved in disciplining children and adults on the same campus."

The following year, the Supreme Council (the Fraternity's guiding body) reported that "a home for the aged is being given careful and conscientious consideration."

James J. Davis again set forth his ideas for a Moose Home for the Aged, at the 1921 Convention in these words:

"I want it to be a place where, if in my old age, with my wife, have to come - I will be happy to come to it." He then added: "that is the feeling every member of this Fraternity should have."

It was at a gathering in Washington, D.C. in December 1921, of the Supreme Forum, the Supreme Council, the Mooseheart Governors, Regents of the Mooseheart Legion and other Supreme Lodge officers that the official decision was made to discontinue service for the aged and infirm at Mooseheart and to establish a separate service for the Aged.

A Search Committee was authorized and spent months looking at sites throughout the country, finally settling on what originally had been part of the historic Kingsley land grant, called Orange Park, Florida.

It might be apropos to mention that Florida has perhaps the most historically significant background of any state in the Union. It has been ruled under the flags of Spain, England, France, Mexico, the Republic of Florida, the Confederate States, and currently the United States. Also, the history of the St. Johns River which borders Moosehaven on the East has borne various names over the years. The native Indians called it Welacca, which translates to Chain of Lakes. During the French reign it was called the River Mai (May). The Spanish first called it the Rio San Mateo, and later the Rio San Juan, which translated into English became the St. Johns River.

The Board of Regents held its first meeting on the proposed site of Moosehaven on August 24, 1922. J. Albert Cassedy was voted Permanent Chairman, Rodney Brandon, Permanent Secretary-Treasurer, with James E. Ford and Lester W. Bloch as members.

The Supreme Council in its report to the 1922 Convention stated that except for minor legal technicalities authorization had been given to lease with option to buy property near Jacksonville, Florida, for a Home for Aged Moose to be called MOOSEHAVEN. Rodney Brandon, on whom the responsibility was placed to work out the details, and personally supervise, the Home's operation proposed that it be known as "The City of Opportunity." Brandon pointed out to the Convention Delegates some of the problems that could arise from setting up and maintaining a home for the aged and offered the following suggestions that might make it work: "Organize the residents so that they might help each other and help themselves, and provide from their own energy the major part of the cost of their keep."

The original lease/purchase covered one eight acre tract on which the hotel and a large house stood, and an eighteen-acre parcel formerly occupied by the Country Club of Orange Park.

The Hotel Marion (also called the Orange Park Hotel) contained approximately 65 rooms, fully furnished, and was operating until April 1, 1922 as a Winter Resort facility. The property also contained a double house of 14 rooms, an outside swimming pool, where one could take sulphur water baths, auxiliary barns, chicken houses, etc., and an artesian well that put water into top floor rooms without a pump. The Moose put up \$4,000 "earnest money" and agreed to pay \$150. a month rent for two years, or at any time prior pay \$30,000. to close the purchase agreement.

The original concept was to have one facility for bedfast residents surrounded by cottages on 1,2,3 or 4 acre plots equipped with fruit trees, a vegetable garden, perhaps a cow, some pigs and lots of chickens. The 4-5 room bungalows or cottages would house one couple and a single man or woman. Management would furnish whatever was needed and the residents would turn in their excess fruit, vegetables, milk, meat, eggs and chickens to the General Store for credit and for resale. It was made clear that no "slackers" would be permitted to remain at Moosehaven.

James J. Davis, the Fraternity's leader, told delegates to the 1923 Convention: "We have undertaken something new in service in founding what we intend to make a "City of Opportunity" for those who in their declining years have met adversity. To these, Moosehaven is not only a place of refuge, a home, but an opportunity. It is our firm belief that many who go to Moosehaven will be rehabilitated and return to Society with confidence renewed." Davis continued: "At Moosehaven we are following the principles laid down at Mooseheart - there will be no separation of a family. When an aged Moose member goes to Moosehaven, if his wife is living, she goes with him."

Moosehaven's Dedication Day was October 3, 1922, but the first residents didn't arrive until November 1.

The initial requirements for admission to Moosehaven were: Must be at least 55 years old - have joined before age 50 and have at least five years of membership immediately preceding application - must transfer to the Moosehaven Regents all of his property as a part contribution toward his care and keep, and that he should contract to give to Moosehaven such service as his physical and mental condition will permit, and further provide that his wife may be required to accompany him and give her service to Moosehaven. If the member joined after 50 years of age he must have at least 10 years of service immediately preceding application. The Admission rules further provided that Women of the Mooseheart Legion shall have the same eligibility as Moose members.

It was noted that the Moose were still leasing the Hotel on June 27, 1923 because of some complaints that "summers are too hot and mosquitoes were too bad."

In the Moosehaven Regents report to the 1923 Convention Regent Chairman A.J. Cassidy stated "that in the first six months of operation Moosehaven doesn't owe one cent. We have no paid employees and the 54 residents do all the work." The Chairman added: "Pecan trees on the Campus should net about \$200./year based on the current price of \$1.00/lb. Cassidy also reported that some Lodges were sending men to Moosehaven who need immediate hospitalization. He said it's unfair because Moosehaven does not have facilities to take care of them. Cassidy concluded his report by stating that Opportunity Lodge and its Committees run Moosehaven. The Regents merely offer suggestions. The place is run just like a large family home. All are expected to do their part to maintain decency, cleanliness and order. "It's a new thought - don't forget it" were Cassidy's closing words.

By 1924 the old Hotel (first named Brandon Hall) had been renamed Faith Hall and the large house adjacent to it was named Hope Hall, as part of Rodney Brandon's recommendation that all Moosehaven buildings be given names for record-keeping purposes.

Also given names were the residence purchased from the Maierfeldt family, west of the Well lot, which was called "Contentment Hall," and arrangements were completed to purchase the "Village Hall of Orange Park" which was moved onto the Well lot and renamed "Industry Hall" and was used to house a belt factory and other shops. Moosehaven's population had increased to 108.

The Supreme Lodge contributed \$20,000 to purchase a portion of Walkill Farms, for Moosehaven expansion. Authorization also was given to build 4 bungalows to be named "Western Reserve Legion," "Illinois Legion," "Wisconsin Legion," and "Northwest Ladies Moose Legion," and to build two 18'x 36' poultry houses on the northwest corner of the old golf course.

(Note: Since Moosehaven service began in October 1922, 136 people have actually resided there. 1 had "graduated." 2 were on Indefinite Leave of Absence, 8 have voluntarily withdrawn (demitted), 14 have died, and 1 was expelled).

Incidentally, two of the early female residents were admitted on their membership in the Women of the Mooseheart Legion, not on their husband's membership.

With the institution of Opportunity Chapter its Executive Committee was given responsibility for disciplining women residents. Matters involving both men and women were handled by the Joint Executive Committee of the Lodge and Chapter.

During the first six months of operation which ended in April 1923 the average population was 30 residents. The cost to maintain them was \$94/month. During the year ending 4/30/24, the average number of residents had jumped to 72, and the cost to maintain had dropped to \$51/month. per person. For the fiscal year ending April 30, 1925, population had risen to 120, and their cost to maintain dropped to \$48/month. and for fiscal '25-'26, population had reached 144 while costs to maintain remained at \$48/month.

The food bill, per person, for the year ending 1925 was \$137. For 1926, it had dropped to \$119. The drop was attributed in great part to the production of food products by the residents.)

In 1927, the Moose acquired property which virtually doubled resident capacity. The tract was bought from the Children's Home & Aid Society of Florida, which had acquired the property a few years earlier but had never occupied the land. Previously, the property had been owned and developed by the American Missionary Association. Daniel Hand, a northern Philanthropist had donated \$1,000,000. to the organization to establish Trade Schools for young black men.

The Orange Park facility named the Hand School, was built in 1890 and although segregation was common, whites were allowed to attend the school. There were three dormitories, a vocational workshop, and several other buildings on the school property, one of which was purchased in 1891 (the Union Congregational Church, which was included in the complex). In the late 1890's the school offered English, Mathematics and music courses in addition to the vocational training. Although whites were allowed to attend, the integrated school was offensive to neighboring residents and clearly not in line with Florida's educational policy at that time, although the school was the only one in Orange Park then. The Florida Constitution of 1885 legalized the concept of racial segregation in schools, and in 1896 the State legislature enacted a law making it illegal for whites to teach at, or white students to attend black schools, and vice versa; even when State money was not involved. The American Missionary Association decided to challenge the law and refused to close the school. Sheriff James Weeks warned school officials and parents of white students, and when his warnings went unheeded, in May 1897 he arrested all whites involved in the school and held them overnight. The Missionary Association bailed them out and continued their legal fight against the constitutionality of the law; which was overturned by the Florida Supreme Court. The school opened on schedule in September and race relations improved for a while, although William C. Maierfeldt, grandson of an Orange Park pioneer, noted that in 1915 students would visit the various shops in pairs, and return immediately to their isolated campus.

The Ku Klux Klan, which had been revived in Georgia in 1915, and now included Jews and Catholics as well as blacks in its list of individuals classified as "a menace to Americanism," not only continued to burn crosses on the school campus, but in 1917 burned down the Chapel. This convinced the Missionary Society that it was unsafe to continue operations and the school closed.

The money used by the Moose to purchase the eight acre school property was a personal gift from Director General Davis, in memory of his father. The Fez Legion of the Moose raised \$35,000 to recondition the buildings, which included stuccoing (pearl dash) the wooden structures and adding concrete porches (Southern Colonial style). They were called the Davis group. The Regents voted to call the East Building "Davis Hall" the center building "Fez Hall" and the west building "Moosehaven Assembly Hall." The Regents also notified private users of water on this recently purchased property that they could continue to use the water for free, temporarily, but when Moosehaven occupied the buildings they would have to make other arrangements. (Note: Free use was discontinued on December 15, 1928). The Regents also declared the Administration Building was to be known as the Long Island Bungalow." The Waterman property on the river front also was purchased and the building on it was named "Lester W. Bloch Bungalow." After the buildings were renovated other buildings on the Moosehaven campus suffered by comparison so the Regents decided to refurbish them to bring them on a par with the Davis group. When this work was completed, it was said that: "Moosehaven was a city within itself with magnificent oaks, citrus and pecan trees loaded with fruit and nuts and green lawns surrounded the residence halls."

The Regents voted that as soon as "A" building in the Davis group was ready for occupancy that Brandon Hall was to be used solely as a Hospital and all residents not serving on the Active Hospital Committee were to be transferred to "A" building.. The main floor of "B" building was fixed up as a Regents Board Room, and offices for Ben Mayes and Guy Gourley. The second floor was left "as is."

The first marriage between residents occurred in 1928 when Myra McKee (an original resident and widow of James McKee) exchanged vows with James D. Ferguson.

A Mrs. Phelps was granted permission to use 1/2 acre of Moosehaven land to build a structure to be used exclusively "for the community life of Orange Park children." The property and improvements were to revert to Moosehaven upon Mrs. Phelps death, or when the building was no longer used for the stated purpose.

Opportunity Lodge's first fund-raiser was installation of a candy machine in Brandon Hall. Profits went into the Lodge treasury.

At the Regents meeting in December 1928 a Christmas Fund was established to receive donations from individuals, Lodges, Chapters, etc., some of the money was to be used for Christmas-related activities on the Campus.

At this time there were just three paid employees at Moosehaven" Ben Mayes, Guy Gourley and Dr. John Hunter Carradine. Mayes, represented Rodney Brandon, secretary- treasurer of the Board of Regents, and was in charge of finances and record-keeping; Gourley was in charge of construction, maintenance and repairs; and, Dr. Carradine was in charge of Health Care. (Dr. Carradine had succeeded Dr. Remer I. Lane who died Dec. 5, 1928). (Incidentally, the old hotel bell tolled whenever a resident died).

In 1929, the Regents received a check for \$500. as down payment on a guaranteed \$5,000. to build an "Old Kentucky Home" building.

During fiscal '29-'30, the farm showed a profit of \$2,328.94. The dairy produced over 11,000 gallons of milk, all of which was consumed by the residents. A few other significant items: At the end of the first year of operation Assets totaled \$132,000. Approximately eight years later Assets totaled \$500,000. In the beginning there were two buildings on 26 acres. On 5/1/30 there were 20 buildings on approximately 100 acres, and population totaled 222 (186 men - 36 women) and the average age was 68 years; 40 acres was used for gardening; James J. Davis had donated personal funds to build a Solarium; and, the Moosehaven Regents had presented the town of Orange Park with a fire engine (which resulted in lower insurance rates for the townspeople as well as Moosehaven)..

The first major new construction of record was the Tah Building completed in 1931 which was located on New York Ave (better known as River Road). Rooms were named for the various Legions which furnished them.

By the time of the 1932 Convention, the Board of Moosehaven Regents was renamed the Board of Moosehaven Governors.

Philadelphia Lodge #54, by far the largest lodge in the Fraternity at that time, with nearly 22,000 members pledged \$45,000 to build a "cottage." Ground had been selected near the main entrance on New York Ave. (River Road); plans and specifications were in the hands of builders. This "cottage"

turned out to be the official Reception Center, on the ground floor, with living quarters accommodating 34 residents on the second floor, and was the largest building on the campus.

During the first ten years of operation (Oct. '22 - Aug. '32) 425 men and 61 women had been admitted. 128 men and 8 women had died. 8 had graduated (of whom 6 had returned). 30 had been expelled. 28 men and 2 women had been transferred to Charity Service (Extension Service) Population on 5/1/32 was 223.

The first Moosehaven pier, at its present location, was built in 1933.

During fiscal '32-'33, residents cared for approximately 80 acres of land, including a 40-acre farm; kept in repair 40 buildings; prepared and served more than 220,450 meals (including many special diets); cared for hospitalized residents; and, worked a dairy which produced 70,500 gallons of milk.

Ben Mayes, who had supervised the financial and record-keeping affairs of Moosehaven since its infancy resigned and was succeeded by Charles E. Whitney.

At the 1933 Convention, Resolution #2 which had been submitted by Schenectady Lodge #251, and approved by its membership at its regular meeting on June 12, 1933 was submitted for approval by Convention delegates to apply to all Moose members. Briefly, it asked that Article 58 of the General Laws be amended by adding the following: "at least five years good standing in our Legion." It added, this should follow the existing sentence "for a period of at least 10 years immediately preceding his/her application for such service." Article 58 referred to eligibility for admittance to Moosehaven. After much discussion the motion was made, seconded and adopted unanimously. However, this restriction didn't last long and the present policy put into force.

Four members of the original contingent to arrive at Moosehaven in 1922 were still living when the 1934 Convention was convened. Thomas Howell had been appointed Moosehaven's first Superintendent; Dr. E. C. Swift was the new Moosehaven physician; Electric bills had been cut 50% under a new contract; and Moosehaven had paid for a new sewerage system to serve the Community; the approximate cost to operate Moosehaven was now \$100,000/year and Legion dues were no longer sufficient to operate Moosehaven, even when supplemented by Women of the Mooseheart Legion dues.

The "Tah" building was designated as the official residence of the Moosehaven Superintendent in 1934, and the "Long Island" bungalow became the residence of Moosehaven's physician, Dr. E.C. Swift.

The new Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Moosehaven Governors, Malcolm Giles, reviewed the entire Moosehaven Budget, and pointed out the necessity for extreme economy. Because of the depression, income had dropped drastically and the Supreme Lodge had to provide a subsidy of \$15,000. to offset actual costs over regular income. Superintendent Howell reported that aside from capital expenditures the cost of operating Moosehaven was decreasing.

A suggestion was made that Northwest, Betcharie and Rainbow bungalows, located on Smith Street, be sold or traded since maintenance was high, the buildings poorly heated, and residents complain they are isolated from the rest of the community.

Because the village of Orange Park was experiencing severe financial difficulties the Board authorized Superintendent Howell to negotiate an agreement by which Moosehaven would make an annual contribution, not to exceed \$500/year.

The Moosehaven Governors report to the 1934 Convention indicated that the one great need for the community was a new hospital. Up to this time, one section of the old Hotel (Faith Hall) had been used to care for bed patients.

Moosehaven Chairman J. Albert Cassidy had passed away during the year and only Lester W. Bloch remained of the original Board which established Moosehaven. Two years later, in 1936, the Governors reported that plans were being prepared for a hospital facility for the exclusive use of Moosehaven residents. In 1935, James J. Davis personally led a pledge campaign to fund the hospital. Numerous Lodges and Legion units contributed. The new hospital was dedicated in 1938, on the site currently occupied by Ryan Fellowship residence hall.

This in turn made it possible to convert the lower floor of the old hotel (which previously had been renamed by the Moose to Brandon Hall, then Faith Hall, and finally named Aid Hall) into living quarters for residents.

Superintendent Howell again warned the Board of increasing disability of residents and pleaded for some able-bodied admissions. He cited the case of a group of 17, who had served faithfully but now were too feeble to carry on.

The Women's Sewing Circle organized by Mrs. Tom Howell, the Superintendent's wife in 1935 was formed primarily to counteract the loneliness of new women residents. The fine needlework of these early residents was the start of today's Gift and Hobby Shops. Their wares were first displayed in a showcase Mrs. Howell bought. The display quickly outgrew the showcase and was moved to the little red "slave house." The next move was to larger quarters in Chapter House and when that was transformed into the Moosehaven Museum, the gift and hobby shops were divided between the California/Nevada Activities Building and the Michigan Reception Center. Since 1954 when Opportunity Chapter took over the financial affairs of the Sewing Circle 20% of the proceeds from gift/hobby sales goes into the Chapter's treasury to fund its charitable activities, and the other 80% goes to the resident who submitted the item for sale. The Women of the Moose provides funds for the purchase of raw materials.

Several important decisions were handed down by the Board in 1938. It eliminated the requirement of Legion endorsement for applicants; and it also agreed it was unwise to admit residents on a "Pay" basis. Several such offers had been received and a number of inquiries made. It also authorized the Superintendent to hire such domestic help as was needed to efficiently operate the community.

Moosehaven's population had levelled off for the past couple of years and during fiscal '38-'39 had fallen to 208 (167 men and 31 women) the lowest figure since 1931, and was attributed to the Social Security legislation passed a few years earlier. It was suggested that members, spouses and widows with limited income might be admitted - but no solution was proposed at the time.

Changing social and economic conditions - and raising the admission age to 65 necessitated a change in the philosophy of residents carrying the full burden of doing all the necessary routine work at Moosehaven. Nearly 50% of the residents required medical care and attention. The obvious answer was that it would be necessary to begin hiring labor, particularly in grounds and building maintenance.

No large capital expenditures had been made during the past year for new buildings, but the entire physical plant was in better condition than at any time in the community's history.

Attesting to the longevity of residents, on May 1, 1940, two of the original residents were still living 18 years after Moosehaven was dedicated in 1922, and a 1941 survey showed 9 residents over 85, 36 over 80, and 92 over 75. The average age was 73 plus years.

In 1941, the Board authorized the hiring of an Assistant Superintendent. Hank Jung, a veteran of Mooseheart service, was appointed to the position in September 1942.

World War II affected Moosehaven as much as any community in the nation. However, instead of Dads and Moms going to war, it was sons and grandsons, daughters and granddaughters answering the call to arms. There was little outside entertainment; few if any trips to Jacksonville for shopping and entertainment; and, even the entertainment at Moosehaven formerly furnished by outside groups was curtailed. The vast majority of admissions during this time were feeble in health as well as advanced in years.

The new Health Center was completed and dedicated on March 10, 1942. It was named the Western Pennsylvania Building. It had 26 ground floor rooms.

The Governors had expressed an earnest desire to eliminate all multi-storied buildings on the campus and replace them with single story residence buildings. The top floor of Aid Hall (old hotel) was virtually vacant and the second and third floor rooms were being phased out as ground floor rooms became available. The steel and glass solarium which had been erected adjacent to the old hotel was converted into 11 ground floor sleeping rooms with modern conveniences.

Also, during fiscal '42-'43, the old farm house was demolished and replaced with a 12-room, single story residence hall for men only. Each had a private room and there was a large lobby, the building was steam heated, and there were communal tub and shower facilities. There's also a new dairy barn, milking house, tool sheds, etc., which make it one of the most convenient and comfortable in Florida. Many of the older buildings had been reroofed during the year and new sheds for garaging trucks, tools, etc., replaced the old ones.

All of the buildings on the campus had been repainted inside and out and made a splendid appearance.

The new Superintendent Major A.E. Haan was introduced to the 1944 Convention and in a brief speech said that according to Insurance industry statistics 6 out of 7 people over 65 years of age or older are dependent on others.

The Board of Governors, along with the Director General and other Fraternity leaders made a detailed study of Moosehaven and discussed plans for the future. At that time, the community was located on 85-90 acres on four different sites within the town limits of Orange Park. The leaders agreed that major changes and improvements would have to wait until World War II was over. It was apparent that the two greatest problems both concerned conditions over which the Fraternity had no control, namely:

1. No paid help was available due to the War and Manpower restrictions.
2. The physical plant which was old when Moosehaven obtained the property, was not designed for the purpose for which it was being used.

A further problem was that the average age of residents was much higher than 15 years ago (1922) when many entered in their 50s, often with a wife 10 years younger. Also, fewer younger and physically fit men were now applying for admission.

Remarkably, virtually all work still was being done by residents. Over 700 meals were prepared daily in seven kitchens. Truck loads of meat, poultry, fish, milk, eggs, and vegetables were provided every day.

Although, only a few of the cows were producing milk there still was enough for each resident to have milk at each meal. Eighteen young pigs had been purchased early in the Spring and by Fall averaged over 100 lbs. Tentative plans were being formulated for a poultry facility to provide both fresh eggs and meat. A new dietetic department now planned all meals one week in advance and purchased all food.

Ambitious plans called for development of the community along the river front. It was proposed that all new construction be Southern style, one story, and that hollow tile or brick be used. New residence halls were to be of 3-group cluster type, with both single and double rooms and a combination kitchen/dining facility. The three buildings in each group would be connected by corridors. There would be separate bath/shower combinations for men and women. The floors would be no more than two steps above ground level with ramps for easy access and egress. The new units would also have living quarters for a man and wife who would be hired to clean, cook, and supervise, aided of course, by those residents able to assist.

With the acquisition of additional land fronting the river and extending back some 1500 feet there would be in excess of 35 acres (later expanded to 60 acres) available for the construction of ten complete cluster units consisting of 30 buildings. There also would be a new commodious meeting hall, a new Administration Building, various storage facilities and an Ice Plant.

The new plan also called for razing all the old buildings and consolidating the new hospital with the newly constructed Western Penn Residence Hall by building a connecting corridor. The new Philadelphia Building was to be converted into a clubhouse with facilities for visitors and residents. The total cost of the program was estimated at \$600,000.

In 1945, the Board authorized purchase of the L.M. Hankins property for \$5,000. and the Boyd-Rice property for \$7,500.. It also authorized the superintendent to buy a tractor and other farm equipment, as well as some pure-bred stock for the Moosehaven farm. Authority also was given to buy the Agnes Cain Painter property for \$10,000. and adjoining river front property on the north for \$5,500.

Later in the year Superintendent Haan reported that the first new major residence hall was practically completed; the foundation had been laid for a second hall, of brick construction; and that the physician's residence was under construction on the site of the previous year's fire, near the hospital.

Stanley Petty, in charge of construction at Mooseheart for many years, was appointed Moosehaven Superintendent in March 1946 to succeed Major A.E. Haan who had resigned. Brother Petty suffered a severe stroke while addressing the 1946 convention and died before the official announcement of his appointment could be made to the convention delegates.

Supreme Secretary Malcolm Giles suggested that plans be started immediately for a great pilgrimage in February 1947 to observe the 25th Anniversary of the founding of Moosehaven, and that a Research Laboratory be established, staffed by specialists to study the aging process and, hopefully, to improve the lives of all aged people, based on the service the Fraternity is giving its aged members, spouses and widows.

The Supreme Secretary also indicated that all buildings in the Long Range Plan would either be completed or well underway within the next twelve months, because all Lodges, Legions and the Women of the Moose had paid their pledges in full. Giles emphasized "We cannot take care of all the old people in the United States, but we can, by the example of Moosehaven, provide a guide for both public and private agencies."

Included among Moosehaven's difficulties during the latter part of World War II was a fire which destroyed several buildings, and the inability to obtain materials and hire labor to replace the fire damaged structures.

While addressing the 1947 Convention (Moosehaven's 25th Anniversary) Director James J. Davis collapsed from a heart attack and died later in the year.

Two new resident halls, Western Penn. and 3-I (Illinois, Indiana and Iowa) were officially dedicated and were occupied. Construction of Empire Hall (New York) had been authorized. Each hall contained nine double rooms and seventeen singles, accommodating 35 residents in each hall.

Periodically, during the '30s and '40s there had been disagreements between Orange Park officials and Moosehaven over its tax exempt status. These came to a head during (fiscal '46-'47) when Moosehaven was experiencing severe difficulties with the Orange Park town officials. The community was threatened with loss of its tax exempt status and the town officials refused to issue building permits which endangered its very existence.

The fraternity engaged the services of the Jacksonville legal firm of Milam, McIlvaine & Milam, who specialized in this field. Subsequently an out-of-court settlement was reached in which Moosehaven retained its tax exempt status, and building restrictions were lifted. In turn the Moose agreed to donate \$1,000. a year (in lieu of taxes); and further agreed that Moosehaven residents would not vote in local elections. The Fraternity fulfilled these conditions during the term of the agreement. (They were eventually lifted, however). The Fraternity also gave the Town of Orange Park a parcel of land, including the old buildings which formerly housed the Hand School, with the understanding the property was to be used as a municipal complex. The town used the property for town meetings, fire and police stations, library and related purposes. The older buildings were demolished and replaced by the modern municipal center on the same site, facing Park Avenue (Highway 17) on the East and Kingsley Avenue on the North.

A new Superintendent, William A. Anderson had been appointed to fill the vacancy incurred by the resignation of Major Haan and the sudden death of Stanley Petty. The 1947 population was 266, 58 of whom were women. 31 to 35 were hospitalized at all times.

All water wells had been connected into one system assuring available water at all times.

Early in 1948, Superintendent Anderson submitted plans for a new structure to be called "Legion Community Building," and also called the Board's attention to the necessity of dismantling the Solarium and Cassidy Hall to provide space for the proposed new Buckeye-Mountaineer resident hall.

At the 1948 Convention, Moosehaven Superintendent Anderson reported: "The modernization program at Moosehaven is practically completed." He listed the following projects as finished: Superintendent's residence, Empire Hall, Buckeye-Mountaineer Hall, Water Tank, Pump House, new water and sewerage systems. Also, the alteration of 3-I Hall and the Philadelphia Building. Chapter Hall had been moved and rebuilt and extensive grading, landscaping, and a lawn watering system had been installed; and he said all the original buildings except one had been demolished or disposed of.

Upon completion of the modernization program Moosehaven's capacity to house residents will have increased 50% over that of just four years ago.

Incidentally, the cost to maintain a resident had risen to \$2,200. a year.

Moosehaven's farm operations continued to be impressive despite the fact that nearly half of the 31 milk cows were non-productive. Milk production averaged 300 quarts per day. A proposed replacement program should improve production.

The medical care program had been substantially reorganized and expanded. The Medical Staff now consisted of 1 physician, 3 Registered Nurses, and one Practical Nurse. (One R.N. was a pharmacist). Several residents served as Orderlies. Complete health records had been established and maintained for each resident. New equipment included an Oxygen Tank and accessories, an electrocardiograph machine, X-ray and developing facilities, lab equipment, a calorimeter and accessories for blood chemistries, and a suction-pressure apparatus.

A new Medical Management program based on studies of the past 25 years, was closely integrated with the resident work program.

The Moosehaven Governors reported that the original plans for self-help and individualism were being adhered to as closely as possible, taking into consideration the increase in average age of residents and their physical and mental capabilities.

Of the current population totaling 333, 182 were performing necessary and useful work, while nearly 150 are unable to do productive work because of major disability or advanced age.

By the Fall of 1948, the dairy was producing 400 quarts of milk a day, gardens were furnishing fresh vegetables and the orchards were laden with fruit and nuts. Residents view one movie a month (in the Auditorium), Birthday Parties are held each month in every residence hall, there are weekly meetings of Opportunity Lodge and Opportunity Chapter; card parties, special entertainment, and picnics roundout the entertainment. Priests, Ministers and Rabbis conduct religious services, many on the campus.

The Geriatrics and Gerontology Research Laboratory was activated on September 15, 1949. The project was designed to benefit not only Moosehaven residents but old folks everywhere. The office and laboratory were set up in the new Community Building, under the direction of Dr. Robert Kleemeier.

Officially, the Laboratory investigated physical, nutritional, social, educational and emotional factors contributing to the improvement and maintenance of physical and mental health. These multiple functions were designed to help the Administrative Staff of Moosehaven provide a happy and useful old age through occupational and mental therapy.

Moosehaven is a closely-knit community. Residents are not only called on to cooperate with each other but also with those responsible for the operation and maintenance of the community. In addition, they must become adjusted to communal or congregate living. This means, in most cases, a complete readjustment of their mode of living. First, there's the adjustment to a new climate and new people. This is easier for some than others. However, generally speaking, it is more difficult for older people than youngsters. Then, the problem of living and eating with those who are not immediate family members. And, perhaps more important, sharing bathing facilities with others. For some, particularly those who are temperamental or accustomed to having things their own way, they become miserable and may become loud and indiscriminate in their criticism of fellow residents and Management. Such people hurt the cause of Fraternalism in general, and their own situation in particular. Adjustment also has to be made to a different diet. In their own home, they were accustomed to eating about what they pleased, or what was common to the agricultural area in which they lived; or perhaps a diet common to their particular type of job. In Communal or Congregate living a trained dietician is fortunate to meet the wishes and needs of a majority of the residents. In developing uniform house rules Management depends heavily on input from the Hall Supervisors, since it is to them that residents often voice their complaints. These complaints are discussed at Staff meetings, and policies formulated. Management, with input from the residents, has a further responsibility to design, plan and execute a program of activities which will result in more enjoyment, a better attitude, and keep Moosehaven a community of which both the residents and the Moose Fraternity will always be proud.

The Research Lab staff held a NAME THE BABY contest for the new community newsletter in its first edition which was published without a title. The contest was open only to Moosehaven residents, with a grand prize of \$5.00 to the winner. Charles Parker, a 27-year resident at the time, captured it with the newsletter's only name "THE MOOSEHAVEN BOOSTER." Incidentally, the first quotation in the Booster was: "Yesterday is gone - forget it. Tomorrow never comes - so why worry. Today is here - get busy." Author unknown.

In his report to the 1950 Convention, Norman G. Heyd, Chairman of the Board of Moosehaven Governors, publicly praised Rodney Brandon for establishing "the inhabitants work program, which enabled the Moosehaven project to get started." Governor Heyd referred to a new women's building on a campus that could now accommodate approximately 400 residents. He also said 200 men and women residents were doing useful and necessary work equal to that of 70 full time paid employees, and that the average age of these resident-workers was 76-plus years.

In the 1950 Booster, one resident wrote: "we have been wishing for movies for many years - now we have them." The first movie shown starred Richard Dix and Jane Wyatt. In Moosehaven's earliest days residents would attend "Victrola" concerts on the front lawn of the old Hotel (Brandon Hall).

Two important changes concerning Moosehaven were approved at the 1951 Convention. Amendment #9 to the General Laws of the Fraternity increased the size of the Board of Moosehaven Governors from 5 to 7, and made the Director General a permanent member. Amendment #10 made widows of eligible deceased members also eligible for admission to Moosehaven.

The Florida State Moose Association funded "a general beautification program to make Moosehaven one of Florida's most attractive tourist stops." The project involved extensive planting of a variety of trees, flowers and shrubbery.

On the subject of beautification, Emanuel Eck spent five years clearing 15 acres of brush on the northern part of the Campus. He was still on the job at age 77.

Ill-health caused the resignation of Supt. Anderson on April 30, 1951. He was succeeded, on July 1, 1951, by Wesley J. Leinweber, a former Superintendent at the Child City, Mooseheart. Brother Anderson had supervised the building of Moosehaven on the river front campus, and the disposal of all other Moose-owned parcels of land in Orange Park, except for the farm property of approximately 85 acres. When Superintendent Leinweber took over the population totaled 355, and the average age of residents was 78 years, 5 months.

Moosehaven's Occupational Therapy Program was especially difficult for the Research Lab to design because it encompassed more than one generation. The stated goal of the therapy program was "to make certain there was something for all residents to do, something to challenge their interest, and to prevent personality disintegration." Obviously, every resident coming to Moosehaven could not be employed in his life's work. Therefore, it was necessary for many to take on jobs that were of secondary interest, or work they had never undertaken. It was a well-recognized fact even in those years that it was not easy to acquire new abilities, and generally speaking, interest in learning new things declined as the years add up.

For people who have lived four-score years or more the future is indistinguishable from the present, and tomorrow comes all too soon. Gifts from family, friends, Lodges, Chapters, State and Regional Associations, are appreciated more for the fact that they are remembered than for their intrinsic value. It's a truism that it's just good for the aged to know that someone cares.

Superintendent Leinweber, in cooperation with the Research Lab staff, revived some old practices and instituted some new ones. Included were: 1. Established a Recreation/Reception Center. 2. Introduced the "Town Hall Meeting" concept. 3. Established a 3-member House Committee (elected by Hall residents) which worked with the Hall Supervisor to establish the pattern of living for the Hall. (a Suggestion Box was provided for each Hall). 4. Weekly staff meetings were held in which the suggestions were reviewed, and "standard practices" were formulated.

By May 1, 1952, the population had reached 355 (273 men and 82 women). They represented 201 Lodges, 33 States, the District of Columbia and Canada. 255 residents were working in 57 different kinds of jobs (67 in kitchens, 40 in Dining Rooms, 49 in Building and Grounds Maintenance, and 18 in such trades and crafts as plumbing, steamfitting, carpentry, painting, and electrical. Also, there were club stewards, librarians, receptionists, guides, cart, truck and van drivers, barbers, laundry workers, mail carriers, shoe and clock repairers, a mimeograph operator and assistant, menders, seamstresses, and a sign painter.

During fiscal '51-'52, the Research Lab worked on 14 different specific problems dealing with aging. Results of these studies were reported in scientific meetings, journals and the general press.

One of the special tasks undertaken by the Research Lab was to edit and contribute articles to the Moosehaven Booster, the community newspaper which it help start; and which is still in existence and is mailed to family, friends, Lodge and Chapter members and the Fraternity's leaders. The Lab oversaw all aspects of the monthly publication for the first six months, and then turned it over to the Administrative Staff. Since then it has been published and edited by the Assistant Superintendent's Office six times a year.

In depicting the health situation at Moosehaven it was stated that the hospital takes care of over 70 patients a month, of whom 45 are termed "tray patients", which means they take their meals in their hospital room. About 25% of Moosehaven's population is always in the hospital, and the average number of outpatient visits is over 700 per month. (These are people who see the doctor, but are not hospitalized). It is a matter of record that most people over 65 wear glasses so it was not unexpected that the optometrist treats some 318 patients a year; and that the podiatrist (foot doctor) treats some 442 patients a year, or an average of 37 per month.

During fiscal '51-'52 Aid Hall (the old hotel) was demolished. It was one of the oldest structures in Orange Park, and the last of the multi-storied building on the campus. Moosehaven now contained the following buildings, all of which were on the river front campus, except for the farm buildings (New Jersey Hall, the Dairy and Milk house):

1. Old Dominion (Supt. house) sponsored by VA Moose.
2. Buckeye-Mountaineer Hall - Ohio/W.V. Moose.
3. Three "I" Hall - Ill., Ind., & Iowa.
4. Keystone Hall - Penn. Moose.
5. Empire Hall - N.Y. Moose.
6. Hope Hall - Women of the Moose.
7. Philadelphia Bldg. - Phila. Lodge #54.
8. Faith Hall - Legion of the Moose.
9. Western Penn. Bldg. (Health Center) - W.Pa.Moose.
10. Maryland Cottage - Maryland Moose.
11. Carolina Hall (formerly Chapter House)-Car.Moose.

Also, there was an Arts & Crafts Bldg. an Industrial Bldg.,(where Maintenance Shops were located) and a residence for Staff members. All buildings were heated by oil burning systems.

The 1953 Convention, celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Moosehaven, was held at Moosehaven and Miami. Opening ceremonies were held at Moosehaven. The orange, blue and green tables used for the picnic lunch were made by Moosehaven residents. The orange-colored markers along the entrance way were reported to be petrified dinosaur eggs. A diamond saw blade was used to cut them in half. (Of course, the same tool would be required to cut through concrete, too).

In addition to donating \$1,000. for the new Mooseheart High School, Opportunity Lodge through it Honorary Membership Program also donated \$1,000. to a proposed new Hospital and Health Center Fund for Moosehaven.

In reviewing the first thirty years of the community, it was apparent that the Moosehaven operation had undergone two fundamental changes: The first twenty years were financed solely by Moose Legion (25%) and the Women of the Mooseheart Legion (75%), then it became a project of the Fraternity as a whole; although the Moose Legion and the Women continued to make substantial contributions.

After the advent of Social Security in 1937 there was some speculation that there no longer would be a need for Moosehaven – but subsequent years proved the speculation to be false.

Before leaving Moosehaven for Miami Pilgrim Governor Rodney Brandon, who had accompanied the original contingent of residents from Mooseheart to Moosehaven reminded delegates that for the first ten years the community had operated without a single paid employee; and for the next ten years with just three paid employees, a fact which he attributed to the resident work program he had instituted. Brother Brandon had been the Project Manager from its beginning until Tom Howell was appointed Moosehaven's first Superintendent in 1934.

You may recall in Moosehaven's earliest days there was a question about the oppressive heat and multitude of mosquitoes – well, in 1953, the U.S. Department of Agriculture stated that the Jacksonville area (including Orange Park) was one of the healthiest areas in the nation.

Commenting on Moosehaven's history, one of its Governors George S. Okell said about "community living" or "congregate living" as it also was called: "Pioneering means not having previously established guideposts by which to determine a course of action, or to measure progress, the Moose Fraternity learned by trial and error the best procedures to follow." It was during Malcolm Giles' tenure as Director General and Norman Heyd's 15-years as Chairman of the Moosehaven Board of Governors that the major rebuilding of Moosehaven on its present (1992) campus was accomplished.

The Research Center, established in 1949, already had achieved national and international recognition through its published studies dealing with the aging process.

The main campus now consisted of 60-plus acres – thirty acres on or near the waterfront was well-developed and 30 acres available for expansion. Additionally, there was an 80 acre farm and dairy located approximately one mile west of the river-front campus.

The population had risen to 354 (263 men and 91 women). Ten were over 90 years of age. There were 44 married couples. 97 residents had been born in foreign countries; and the average length of Moose membership was 32 years.

Following is a pattern for congregate living, developed by the Moose, and what the Fraternity has done to make Moosehaven as close to idyllic as possible: Selected a location where the climate is as ideal as possible for older people. Most older folks have some degree of cardiac deficiency, therefore, stair climbing should be avoided or minimized. To live longer, a person's physical energy requirements should be held within the limits of his energy reserve. Moosehaven Governors recognized this early on and converted from multi-storied halls to one-story residences as quickly as it was economically feasible to do so. Physical comfort is one factor basic to good morale. This means good housekeeping, regular and efficient laundry service, adequate sanitation facilities and clothing suited to the climate. Also, every provision should be made for medical care.

The foregoing covers the necessities for physical well-being. However, equally important to congregate living is that the social morale and spiritual welfare must be maintained at a high level. At Moosehaven, residents were encouraged to take part in community activities and share in the responsibilities for its achievements. To accomplish this each Hall had a House Committee to maintain decorum and to foster morale. Tournaments and various contests were held, as were monthly birthday and anniversary parties, as well as picnics on special occasions. Major holidays were commemorated or celebrated. Fraternalism was encouraged through membership in Opportunity Lodge and Chapter. The Lodge was chartered in 1923 and the Chapter in 1924. Also, the residents contributed articles and notes of personal activities to the Moosehaven Booster, the community's newspaper which is still distributed nationwide.

Another major factor in "adding living to years," is occupational activity. Those which have therapeutic value and stimulate a continuing interest in living are featured. In 1953, out of a population of 353, 240 residents were working in 56 different kinds of jobs – each one of which is essential to the operation or maintenance of the community, and for which they receive compensation. Most of these jobs are treasured. In addition, many work on special hobbies that have decorative as well as utilitarian value. Special effort is made by Management to expand this aspect of occupational therapy so that it is possible for virtually every resident, regardless of physical condition, to find something he would like to do – and can do. Most residents work 3 hours a day (9–15 hours per week) on their job. Many work longer hours because of the personal satisfaction they derive. The financial reward for rendering these services varies according to the nature, requirements and the number of hours involved. In addition to the work-for-pay jobs, many residents perform volunteer work for which the only compensation they receive is the satisfaction which comes from helping others.

Religious and cultural development were fortified by church services, both off and on the campus, two libraries featuring extensive collections of books and a wide variety of current periodicals; plus off-campus trips to theaters, and other cultural events.

By convention time in 1954, Malcolm Giles had passed away and Paul P. Schmitz had been named Director-General. In eulogizing Malcom Giles, it was said: "A living monument is one that fills a need and serves a purpose. Moosehaven is a tribute to some, a creative vision to others, and a recognition of the character and purposefulness of the Moose Fraternity. It is a monument to leadership dedicated to the service of our fellow men."

As the Moosehaven Research Lab developed its studies of the aging process it also performed many practical functions and services in operation of the community. It interviewed each new resident to determine his natural habits and preferences, to better find a niche in the community's pattern of congregate living.

Out of a population of 350 residents (259 men and 91 women) there were 44 married couples. 230 residents were performing work assignments and there were 118 sunshiners (unable to work). According to experts in the field, "work is the best remedy for loneliness and for purposeful living. It is man's greatest blessing for leading an integrated and well-adjusted life."

During fiscal '53-'54, the round-the-clock health service program under the direction of Dr. John Owens, and hospital supervisor Crabill, cared for a daily average of 81 patients in the Health Center itself, which was slightly more than 23% of the resident population. Besides those hospitalized, the Medical Staff filled several thousand prescriptions, took care of 861 clinic patients, gave over 4,500 injections, treated 213 for visual difficulties, 278 for foot disorders, and 171 received dental services.

The Supreme Council which had visited Moosehaven in March 1955, advised National Convention delegates to remember that Moosehaven was never intended to be a health home, an infirmary, nor a hospital for new admissions. Costs would be prohibitive and beyond the means of the Fraternity despite humanitarian ideals of the highest order.

Despite these warnings, the Moose Legion raised funds for construction of a special building (Legion Hall) at an estimated cost of \$140,000, for residents requiring special custodial care, to relieve the hospital, so it could care for the more acutely ill residents.

Leo Ryan, Chairman of the Moosehaven Board of Governors, was asked by a Florida Public Assistance officer if he thought the need for Moosehaven would continue since the Social Security and Old Age Assistance programs were growing. Ryan's prophetic reply was: "Our experience indicates the need for Moosehaven will continue." Then Ryan continued: "The Federal and State programs may help alleviate the economic situation older folks find themselves in, but it will never take away loneliness, nor buy companionship." From Ryan's viewpoint the Moosehaven Project was successful because the Moose Fraternity: 1. Did the right and honorable thing in accepting responsibility for our aged brothers, their spouses and widows. 2. By using practical methods to solve our problems, and by correcting the distasteful conditions found in virtually all poor farms.

3. Because Moosehaven residents were made an integral part of their home – not just inmates.
4. Because the resident has a voice in the operation of the home.
5. Because every resident, if able, makes some contribution through his own labor towards the maintenance of the home.
6. And last but not least, the fraternal tie that exists among them.

First reference to the "Christmas in October" program of the Women of the Moose was made at the 1955 Convention. It was suggested that the men participate "silently and without fanfare" by contributing their gifts through the Women of the Moose. It was further stated that "you don't have a good Lodge unless a Chapter is associated with it."

In the mid '50s Florida had attained a reputation as a fine cattle state. As a result of various studies, and a gift from Mooseheart of some hi-bred cows and a young bull, Moosehaven had upgraded its dairy herd which was now furnishing 75 gallons of milk a day which provided plenty of milk not only for drinking, but for cooking and with the installation of stainless steel milk dispensers also provided milk for snacks during mid-morning, mid-afternoon and evenings. A pasteurizing machine had been put into operation during the year, so that all Moosehaven milk produced met Florida's sanitation code.

Among other innovations in the '50s were paper bag style Sunday suppers. The action was especially popular with resident kitchen and dining room helpers. After a four week trial 98% of the residents voted favorably to continue the practice. In recent years a paper plate buffet has been substituted for the "paper bags." Now it enables the paid help to spend Sunday evenings with family and friends.

In the most recent survey, the average male resident had been a Moose member for 40 years, and most agreed that their "green receipt" was their most valuable possession.

Board Chairman Leo Ryan always had some interesting facts in his convention reports, and 1956 was no exception. Ryan stated that while there were no more Centenarians than in the past decade, many more were attaining 75-plus years, and that by 1980 at least 18-million Americans would be over 70 years of age.

Ryan also reported that the Board was considering a new entrance to Moosehaven, from Highway 17 (Park Avenue), because visitors were having difficulty finding the entrance which was located on New York Avenue (River Road).

Moosehaven's population had taken a slight dip by August 1, 1956, and stood at 329 (240 men – 89 women), representing 189 Lodges, 30 states, 4 Canadian provinces, and Alaska. The oldest to be admitted was 93 years of age. Average age of residents was 77 years, one month (the highest ever). It was now necessary to care for about 1/3 of the population in the Hospital/Health Center.

Frequent reference has been made to the Honorary Membership Program of Opportunity Lodge. By 1956 membership had risen to 7,050; and Shelbyville, IL. Lodge #1294 had enrolled every one of its 468 paid-up members, the first Lodge to do so. Also, immediately after being granted permission by the Supreme Council to issue Honorary LIFE Memberships Eugene Goling of Philadelphia Lodge #54 was the first to sign up. His card was "permanized", or using today's terminology, it was laminated.

Opportunity Lodge's Ritual Team had been re-organized and was available for enrollment ceremonies at Lodges in northern Florida and southern Georgia. The team was much in demand.

The Farm Program was floundering so a new manager was hired and a new grass was introduced which, if successful, would provide hay for the cattle during the off-growing season.

In the mid-fifties George Boyden, the Moosehaven Booster mimeograph operator invented and built a special collator for assembling the 8-page newsletter. His invention performed all the functions of expensive commercial machines with uncanny precision.

Moosehaven's first professional clown resident was "Blackie" Phillips who had joined the Ringling Bros. in 1889 and performed as a slack and tight wire artist, and a juggler. In the '80s and '90s the resident clown was Daniel "Happy Dan" Karmindy, also a Ringling Bros. alumnus, who at the time this book was being written was still dressing in his tramp clown costume to entertain children and adults with jokes, tricks and balloon animals.

By 1956, the cost of operating the Hospital/Health Center was more than it cost to operate the entire community just ten years earlier.. Also, another addition had been made to the Health Center which provided an additional 22 beds and also provided dormitories for nurses, which helped solve a hiring problem. Remaining space in the new addition was occupied by a new laundry. The old hand laundry operation in the Commissary Building was discontinued.

The Governors suggested that a fitting memorial be placed at Moosehaven, for Robert J. Borland, a member of Universal Lodge #298, in Pennsylvania, who had left Moosehaven \$55,000 in his will.

Again in the 1957 Convention, Board Chairman Leo Ryan made some insightful remarks about Moosehaven and retirement. Ryan said: "Retirement is a very real transition. Young people look forward to it, while many old folks seek to postpone the day. Moosehaven provides an outlet for older Moose members to continue to make an important contribution to society and maintain his/her feeling of self-worth." However, continued Ryan: "It must be recognized that Moosehaven cannot change a resident's personality. If he, or she, has been a good congenial person during his lifetime, he/she probably will be the same at Moosehaven. Conversely, if they had been difficult, quick to anger, and had personality problems, they will be about the same at Moosehaven." "Hopefully, said Ryan, "the Research Lab while studying the aging process will provide a guidance service to steer these people into a pattern for successful congregate living."

Men's walking shorts were not stocked in the Moosehaven store until the mid '50s. One lady resident with tongue-in-cheek asked: Is this part of Moosehaven's Beautification Program?"

And, looking back some problems just never seem to go away. In the old days strong feelings were expressed against those who took sections, or all, of the Hall's newspapers to their rooms. Various methods of controlling the problem were discussed, but apparently no successful solution was found because the problem still exists today.

On May 1, 1957, the total population was 350. Men numbered 247, and women 103. (The first time the female population had exceeded 100). The residents represented 199 Lodges, 34 States, 3 Canadian Provinces, and Alaska.

Director General Paul P. Schmitz praised Moosehaven resident Walter Henley for his work in directing the grounds beautification program. (Note: Henley had taken college-level courses in landscaping while a resident). And, in the same address to the 1958 convention, the Director General also proposed making Opportunity Lodge (with its Honorary Membership) the largest lodge in the Fraternity. This was at a time when there were still a couple of lodges with over 25,000 members. There were approximately 8,000 honorary members of Opportunity Lodge at the time.

On the subject of landscaping, the area between the Philadelphia Building and Faith Hall was called "The Commons" until 1956 when it was renamed "Edgye's Park" in honor of the resident who took care of the area.

And as another example of the entrepreneurial spirit James Brandon, while serving as Governor of Opportunity Lodge operated a "bee" farm. He advertised the honey he sold as "made under the most sanitary conditions, of pure nectar from dew-kissed tropical blossoms under the sun-drenched skies of Florida."

The bronze Moose standing on Mooseheart's Centennial Plaza is a magnificent piece of sculpture, but preceding this work by a number of years was the artistry of a Moosehaven sculptor/artist William Parrish, who in the 1950s fashioned a life-like concrete statue of a moose which stood over 5 feet tall and weighed more than 700 pounds. It stood on the Moosehaven Campus for years and was popular with photographer visitors, many of whom sat their children on the statue for pictures. Parrish also sculpted smaller concrete statues of a donkey and an elephant which children delighted in riding. The statuary stood near the Administration Building and in its own way emphasized the non-political status of the Moose Fraternity.

Governor George Okell quoted from a leading newspaper, an article published after extensive research, titled "What Old People Want." It contained these facts: 1. Most old people want to live, in companionship, with people their own age. 2. Old people still enjoy being amused and entertained thus maintaining a stability in one's personality. (The reporter noted that a full and rounded program was lacking). 3. There was a great desire for a work program. (Nearly all expressed the wish to do something useful so they would know they were still making a contribution to the community in which they lived).

Superintendent Leinweber died March 11, 1958, after serving since 1951, and was succeeded by Charles McCall.

Dedication Day for the new Legion Hall was March 16, 1958. The new residence hall cost \$185,000. On that date AT&T linked 108 Legions of the Moose throughout the United States, Canada, and Alaska for a "closed circuit" radio broadcast of the show's Dedication Ceremonies. Mooseheart children provided instrumental and vocal music for the program which was MC'd by Bob Hurleigh, a commentator and vice president of the Mutual Broadcasting System, from a studio set up in Chicago's Sherman Hotel.

On the farm, a new barn of concrete and cinder block was now in use. The dairy herd consisted of 36 cows (of which 22 were milking), 8 yearling heifers, three two-year-old heifers, 3 heifer calves, and one bull. All had been bred of championship-caliber stock. Daily milk production was 75 gallons. The Garden State Building was being refurbished making the farm layout the best it had ever been.

Research Director, Dr. Robert Kleemeier, was given a one-year Leave of Absence to attend the University of Bristol (England), under a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Mental Health. Dr. Will Justiss replaced him and following the death of Supt. Leinweber, Justiss on Sept. 1, 1958 was named Assistant Superintendent, in addition to his duties as Director of the Research Laboratory, and clinical psychologist.

Nevada's United States Senator Pat McCarran, stating that he had learned that Moosehaven, operated by the Loyal Order of Moose had great experience in treatment of the aged, invited Moosehaven's Chairman of the Board of Governors, Leo Ryan, to answer a questionnaire and offer his observations and comments. Among his comments Governor Ryan said the Fraternity felt it had an obligation to: 1. Provide a wholesome decent place for their needy elderly members, spouses and widows to live. 2. To provide food, so they are well-fed. And 3. To provide medical care

Superintendent Charles McCall, who had succeeded Wesley Leinweber was wholly familiar with Moosehaven, having served on its Board of Governors for several years. In his first report to the 1959 Convention, he said total population was 353 (253 men and 100 women), representing 219 lodges, 34 states and 5 Canadian Provinces. Average age at admission was 76 years, 11 months, and the average age of all residents was 78 years one month. He also reported that there were now 149 residents over 80 years of age.

During its December 1959 meeting the Supreme Council approved \$25.00 Honorary Life Memberships in Opportunity Lodge, whose membership at that time exceeded 8,000.

Moosehaven Governor Leo Ryan reported that a recent study of 25,000 nursing homes in the U.S. showed that 4/5ths of them don't even have a Registered Nurse on their staff.

Ryan also expressed a need for at least one more resident hall to assure that no approved applicant for admission would have to be denied because there was no room at Moosehaven for him.

Supt. McCall reported that the river front was becoming unsightly because of erosion and he was authorized to consult with an engineering firm about building a bulkhead. Plans and estimates were submitted and the Fraternity was exploring ways to fund the project.

The Superintendent also presented a written report, in Miami, to a U.S. Senate Committee studying the problems of aged people. Newspapers were generous in comments about the Moosehaven project, and one person attending the meeting said: "Of all the testimony and reports given the only one that made sense was that of the Loyal Order of Moose."

Medical Director Dr. Elliott Denney passed away and Dr. Cecil C. Collins, Sr. succeeded him. At the same time, Dorothy Davis was appointed Supervising Nurse.

Life Magazine, in a series of articles on "Problems of Old Age," summed up as follows: 1. Fear of Want. 2. Fear of Insecurity. 3. Fear they might not receive care when no longer able to care for self. 4. Fear of not being wanted. (which Life Magazine said was the greatest fear of all). It was easy to reach the conclusion that the Moose Fraternity was meeting all these needs at Moosehaven.

Following a meeting at the White House, and the report that was released, Moosehaven Chairman Leo Ryan said: "Without fear of contradiction the Moose plan and effort at Moosehaven cannot be matched anywhere in the world."

Ryan reminded Convention delegates that a year ago he had recommended another resident hall. He said his warning was not unwarranted because during the past six months Moosehaven's population had jumped from 356 to 392, and homes that had been taken out of service were reactivated and the doctor's residence and the Maintenance Building had been converted to house new residents.

In a dedicatory speech, for Moosehaven's new Jubilee Hall, funded by the Legion of the Moose, Grand Herder Earle Horton reminisced: When Moosehaven was opened in 1922 the Hotel Marion, with its adjacent 14-room house, were the only buildings on the property, and the hotel was leased with an option to buy, but that the Hand School property was purchased outright in 1927. Horton also said he was at Mooseheart in October 1922 when the first group destined for Moosehaven "marched from their hayloft cubicles in the old barn to a cavalcade of autos waiting to take them to Aurora, IL to board the train that would take them from 'The Old Men's Dormitory' to their new home at Moosehaven; some 1,200 Mooseheart children lined the route as the group, led by the Mooseheart Band and Cadet Corp, cheered them on the first leg of the journey to their new home."

Director General Schmitz followed Horton saying: "All traces of the original 3-4 and 5-story buildings are gone. In their stead are beautiful, comfortable one-story residence halls, a Health Center, a Community center, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, An Arts & Crafts Shop, and a Commissary; all situated in a park-like setting on or near the bank of a wide river." All of which, said the Director General, "is dedicated to the proposition that the Moose Fraternity will take care of its own."

Zola Kenney, Grand Recorder of the Women of the Moose made the dedicatory speech of the Sea Wall (bulkhead) and fishing pier, which had vastly improved the river frontage.

Because of the illness of Chairman Leo Ryan, Superintendent McCall gave the Governors' Report. He quoted U.S. Senator George Mathers as saying: "Medical Science has found ways to prolong life. Technological progress has created an economy that provides a long leisure period after the working career is ended. The result is a rapidly growing population of senior citizens for whom society generally is not prepared. Our society is youth-oriented and is ill-prepared to give retired persons the status, the appreciation, the economic independence and the cultural role they need.

Consequently, the end of the working career, for many, becomes a shock, a dislocation, instead of a pleasure."

During fiscal '62-'63, over 400,000 meals were served at Moosehaven along with 30,000 gallons of milk (which was produced at the Moosehaven Dairy).

Honorary Membership in Opportunity Lodge had reached an all-time high of 10,000.

Gordon Jeffery was appointed Chairman of the Board of Moosehaven Governors to succeed Leo Ryan who had died. In his report to the 1964 Convention, the new Chairman said: "Certain trends are appearing to shape the future care of the aged. The emphasis on health care is increasing more than on residential care." Then he added: "The following elements are problems which arise in elderly care. characteristics are accentuated, little things become magnified, sensitivity is increased, and jealousies are more acute. The Moosehaven policy is careful, vigilant, kindly and understanding approaches to all of these problems. Management has learned the necessity of being kind, yet firm; genial, yet positive; guiding rather than directing; leading rather than driving." Jeffery concluded: "It is important that we realize and appreciate the necessity of patience, tolerance and flexibility in dealing with our senior members at Moosehaven."

The Counseling and Guidance Office provided an important tool in the adjustment of new residents. Monthly follow-up interviews expedited adjustment and assisted Management in placing the resident in a work program in which he/she was happy and useful. Over 60% of the residents participated in a wide variety of tasks.

In 1963, in addition to Medical Director C. C. Collins, Sr., and Supervising Nurse Dorothy Davis, there were 22 Nurses and Aides, 16 Orderlies and 5 maids. Two residents who were Registered Nurses also worked in the Health Center: Mary Jones (who had worked in the Mooseheart Hospital during the 1918 Flu Epidemic) and Lydia Evers who also had worked as a Registered Nurse at Mooseheart for over 22 years.

Ground breaking for Academy Hall was on Feb. 6, 1964 and the cornerstone was laid on March 8th. The project was funded by the W.O.T.M. as was the refurbishing of Buckeye-Mountaineer Hall.

At the 1965 Convention, the Michigan delegation began raising funds for a new Recreation Building. The proposed design was that of a modest model Moose Lodge and Club quarters, including social and recreational facilities.

The newest and greatest challenge to the Fraternity since the House of God project at Mooseheart, was a proposed new Health Center at Moosehaven estimated to cost nearly \$2,000,000, completely furnished. There was to be no dues assessment. It was suggested that each member voluntarily contribute \$1.00 a year for two years. The "Golden Leaf" states (Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama) which had begun raising money for such a project during the past year, presented a check for \$61,104.87 to start the official campaign.

In speaking about the Moosehaven work program Board Chairman Gordon Jeffery said: "There is not the general restlessness and unhappiness which affects many older persons." He added: "while Moosehaven does not pretend to have fully solved the aging problems, it is ever conscious of the need for improvement."

Hurricane Dora did extensive damage all along the East Coast, but just as tornadoes have done very little damage at Mooseheart, so, too, damage to structures at Moosehaven by hurricanes has been minimal. The greatest inconvenience from Dora was loss of electricity for eight days. The standby diesel pumping station, however, assured an adequate water supply for domestic and fire-fighting use.

By May 1, 1966, Moosehaven's population was 444, representing 36 states and Canada. The average age was 78 years, 6 months, and the oldest resident was 101.

It was stated again that Moosehaven cannot provide its residents with youth – but it can and does provide an environment where they can regain their dignity and enjoy a happy productive life. It can help rebuild the social and emotional sides of their lives; and, the new Paul P. Schmitz Health Center will be of immeasurable help in caring for their health problems.

In 1966, it was reported that there were 19,000,000 Americans 65 and older, and the number was increasing by over 500,000 each year.

Medicare, the Federal Government's new health insurance program became effective July 1, 1966. It didn't provide for custodial care, but covered "reasonable" hospital services.

Director General Schmitz, in dedicating the new Health Center, which was named in his honor, said: "The Health Center is not to be a Laboratory researching the infirmities of the aged, but a facility devoted exclusively to making life healthier and happier for those in residence at Moosehaven." Schmitz added: "The prime purpose is to ameliorate, as far as medical science is capable, all the physical discomforts that accompany advancing years." The Director General concluded by stating: "The whole maze of social legislation passed in recent years is belated recognition of a vital need that has long been recognized by the Fraternal Societies of America; in light of their philanthropic activities alone the organizations have been a powerful force for good in the progress of our nation."

The Women of the Moose who had contributed \$500,000 to the Health Center project, pledged an additional \$25,000 to complete furnishing of all rooms.

One wing of the Health Center was complete enough for inspection by Convention delegates.

In accepting keys to the new Michigan Recreation Building from Michigan State Director Harold Kretsinger, Moosehaven Board Chairman Gordon Jeffery, before passing them on to Moosehaven Superintendent McCall offered this toast: "May the rains that fall, the lightning that strikes, and the winds that destroy, spare this facility until it has completed its full service to our Moosehaven residents and those who visit them." Opportunity Lodge contributed \$10,000 that day and pledged an additional \$5,000 for furniture and equipment.

In its initial stages Moosehaven was not prepared to furnish individual health and personal needs. Gradually, as new facilities became available services became individualized. In 1966, residents were divided into six categories: 1. Well-able. 2. Able. 3. Moderately able. 4. Able convalescent. 5. Chronic convalescent. And 6. Nursing Service patient. The categories were not intended to isolate any one group from the general community, but to provide specialized services for each group.

An exciting event occurred in 1967. A large Navy helicopter made a forced landing on the Moosehaven Campus. It had to be dismantled and trucked to Jacksonville Naval Air Station for repairs and reassembly before returning to its home base.

A Moosehaven resident in the Sixties, Earl Humphrey stated that during World War I he had been stationed with a Military unit on some of the acreage now occupied by Moosehaven. Humphrey said in 1919 and 1920 he helped remove the Officers' Quarters, a few wooden barracks buildings and some storage structures. Humphrey also stated that Orange Park Road existed where Highway 17 (Park Avenue) now stands..

The Paul P. Schmitz Health Center officially opened March 3, 1968.

Rodney Brandon died March 16, 1968. Too much praise cannot be given this great Fraternalist. Throughout his career whenever someone was needed to carry out the grand dreams and plans of the Moose Fraternity, they turned to Brother Brandon. He was an unequalled "doer."

Mooseheart graduate John Meikle, a Supreme Council member, was the first to state that the new Health Center "will stand as a living monument to Director General Paul P. Schmitz." Meikle further identified it as "the most outstanding achievement of many that had occurred during the 15-year term of the Director General; and in concluding his remarks said that the Supreme Council action in naming the building the Paul P. Schmitz Health Center was unanimous.

Again, speaking for the Supreme Council, Meikle said changes in the Fraternity's Ritual had been approved, with the understanding that a moratorium be placed on further changes, for a substantial period.

Quoting from a Federal Government report Moosehaven Chairman Gordon Jeffery said 5,300,000 older Americans' income is below the poverty level. Only 1 out of 5 has a job (often at low wages), 40% have assets under \$1,000. Many live in city or rural slums, lonely and forgotten; and they suffer a disproportionate burden of bad housing, and poor health facilities, in addition to inferior recreation and rehabilitative services.

Supreme Governor Cecil Webster, addressing the 1969 Convention stated that "many other homes for the aged have marveled at our Fraternity's ability to provide the facilities we have at Moosehaven. without help from outside organizations, or state and federal sources."

Following extensive study, the Supreme Council recommended that a new, uniform membership application be adopted that contained the four following additions: 1. Place and Date of Birth. 2. Place of Residence (rather than address of applicant). 3. Add statement that candidate is not a member of the Communist Party. And, 4. Applicant has never been convicted of a felony.

Board Chairman Gordon Jeffery, after detailing the problems of older people, said of his Governors: "we must keep aware of the demands and aspirations of older people, and as we build new accommodations, or remodel older ones, we must take into consideration the reasonable desires of those who come to Moosehaven."

On May 1, 1969 Moosehaven had a population of 446 (284 men, 162 women). There were 61 couples.. The residents represented 258 Lodges, 31 states, and 3 Canadian Provinces.

The fact that caring for the aged was a complex undertaking was underscored at their 1970 Convention when Moosehaven Board Chairman Jeffery said: "It is incumbent on those who serve the aged to preserve what can be preserved, improve performance with the various aids available, and never be discouraged because a full and outright rehabilitation is not achieved. Recovery from illness is sometimes retarded by an older person's lack of desire to fight back but the desire to live is still a motivation for most." Jeffery concluded by saying: "Older people are not all alike. Their abilities, attitudes and problems differ. Bodily changes occur at different times, as does their mental capacity."

Improvements at Moosehaven during past year included an underground primary electrical distribution system, and the addition of an outdoor Mercury Vapor lighting system.

The Governors also directed that plans and "specs" be drawn to convert the old hospital/health center into a residence hall to be renamed Leo Ryan Fellowship Hall.

Chairman Jeffery also made the observation that Moosehaven is not just a Boarding House where aged Moose come to live out their years - but, a place where the aged come to life.

The Women of the Moose announced they will fund a new residence hall to be named after its founder and first Grand Chancellor, Katherine Smith; and that it would be completed and ready for occupancy by next Convention time (which would mark Moosehaven's Fiftieth Anniversary).

Another surprise announcement was made by the New York State Moose Association which proposed to build a chapel at Moosehaven to serve residents of all faiths.

Supt. McCall in his convention report said: "Man now spends his life in three major activities, Learning, Working and Retirement. The Supt. indicated radical changes were coming in the near future. He said more years would be devoted to learning and leisure and less to working. McCall predicted that retired life would be affected more than the other two. Technology was fast replacing manpower, at the same time the population was growing and women were entering the work force in increasing numbers, at a time when fewer workers were needed.

Commenting on health of the aged population, Governor Paul Snyder quoted Government statistics that 90% of those over 75 are afflicted with one or more disabilities that may be severely handicapping.

Governor Charles Zoba reported that Moosehaven, at a cost of \$50,000, had attached to the Orange Park Water and Sewerage System.

The existing Moosehaven water system was to be used exclusively for grounds maintenance and would not be tied in with the new potable water system.

Katherine Smith Hall was completed in April 1972 and first residents moved in shortly after May 15th.

Construction started on the Main Chapel in January 1972 with expectation that it would be completed by April 15th., but due to delays in delivery of materials, completion was delayed until late in the month.

Governor Zoba in his report announced that the Underground Sprinkling System, funded by the Virginia Moose was completed in December 1971. He also reported that many compliments had been received on the beautiful garden-fountain memorial commemorating the widening of, and addition of drive-outs on River Road and Highway 17; the replacement of old sidewalks and addition of new ones, which were funded by the North Carolina Moose.

Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C., Moose renovated the old Foster home and converted it into a Physical Therapy Bldg., which included equipment for woodworking, printing, metal-craft, and stone polishing.

Governor James Freeze, in his remarks to the 1972 Convention said: "Old age must be made more tolerable, not because we're sorry for old people but because it is morally right and necessary that they have a fair deal. This will continue to be our goal at Moosehaven. Our experience has been that as soon as we construct another residence hall or other facility it is almost immediately filled, or another addition must be considered, at always increasing cost." "Perhaps," said Governor Freeze, "we should consider limiting Moosehaven to its present capacity."

Governor Paul Snyder, reporting to the Convention recapped the history of Moosehaven from 1938 on. He said, "Our first health center was built in 1938, on the site of what is now called Leo Ryan Fellowship Hall. In 1944, led by James J. Davis, a program was announced that would result in rebuilding Moosehaven, almost from the ground up. This long range project was started in 1946. In 1951, Malcolm Giles who had succeeded James J. Davis as Director General reported to the convention that the last of the old buildings had been torn down. The last to go was Aid Hall (the old hotel)."

Governor Ed Baldree continued the history, stating that in the five-year period 1946-1951, the following buildings were constructed by the Moose Fraternity:

1. Three "I" Hall, sponsored by IL, IN, and IA Moose.
2. Keystone Hall, by PA. Moose.
3. Buckeye-Mountaineer Hall, by OH. and WV. Moose.

4. Old Dominion (Supt. residence) by VA Moose.
5. Hope Hall, by Women of the Moose.
6. Empire Hall, by NY Moose.
7. Garden State Hall, (Farm residence) by NJ Moose.
8. Marylander (Doctor's residence), by MD Moose.
9. Michigan (Doctor's residence) by MI Moose.
10. Northwest Bldg. (Commissary), by Northwest Moose.
11. Faith Hall, (for men only) by Moose Legion (Two wings were added in 1962, by the Moose Legion.
12. Jubilee Hall, by the Moose Legion.

Also, Baldree noted that the Virginia-Carolina parkway (Moosehaven's new main entranceway) was completed in 1959; and the concrete pier and bulkhead (seawall), funded by the Women of the Moose were completed in 1962; Academy Hall, also funded by the Women of the Moose was completed in 1964; and the Paul P. Schmitz Health Center, a project of the entire membership, was dedicated in 1968.

Governor Leon Sherrod continued the recap of history, reporting that the Michigan Recreation Center had been dedicated in 1967, and Katherine Smith Hall in 1972. Sherrod also noted that the Main Chapel, sponsored by the New York Moose Association was now completed, but missed its scheduled completion date of April 15, 1975 due to late material deliveries.

James Freeze, continuing the Governors Report said any renovating program should include the following:

1. At least semi-private toilet and lavatory space between rooms.
2. Re-do all bathrooms.
3. Re-wire to accommodate in-the-room TV, and new light fixtures.
4. Replace plumbing (where necessary).
5. Replace roofs and insulate.
6. Provide new heating and Air Conditioning similar to Katherine Smith and Academy Halls.
7. New wall and floor coverings (unless recently replaced).
8. New furnishings (unless recently replaced).

Richard Wuerfel arrived at Moosehaven in March 1972. He is believed to be the first Mooseheart graduate to take up residence at Moosehaven. He demitted about five months later and returned to the Chicago area.

At the 1973 Convention, the delegates acting as a Committee of the Whole, approved a recommendation that all reference to "race" be stricken from the Constitution and By Laws of the Order, effective immediately. And it was at this same Convention that Moosehaven Chairman Gordon Jeffery voiced a profound observation: "Old age is a burden. It should not also be a penalty." Governor Freeze followed by paraphrasing Winston Churchill, "Never before in the history of mankind have so many people lived so long."

"The experience of 50 years of operating Moosehaven with definite principles and practices has been translated into established policies," said Governor Sherrod, "And," he continued, "the significance of the work at Moosehaven has attracted international attention." Sherrod then added,

"Nearly half of the residents regularly contribute their time to work that offers good therapeutic value to them, as well as providing valuable assistance in the maintenance and operation of their home." Sherrod concluded by saying that "many residents also engage in hobbies that are both financially and therapeutically rewarding."

Governor Zoba pointed out a pressing problem was procuring and keeping the type of personnel interested in, and willing to, dedicate themselves to the type of service required at Moosehaven. Zoba concluded by noting that the problem was particularly acute in the Health Care field.

Governor Baldree concluded the Report on a high note.

He said that following extensive inspections by the State Fire Marshal's Office, the State Board of Health, Medical and Nursing Care, and the Clay County Board of Health and Sanitation Departments, the Paul P. Schmitz Health Center was licensed as required by Florida law. Many commendations were received from those making the inspections.

Dorothy Davis, employed at Moosehaven virtually all of her adult life and for the past several years as Supervisor of Nursing, obtained her Health Center Administrator License.

Governor Paul Snyder reported that 50% of Moosehaven's cooks, helpers, and Hall Supervisors had attended a 3-day, six hour class for food handlers. Classes were held in the new Health Center dining room. Snyder added that it is through such training that many of the hazards relating to preparing, handling and serving food can be greatly reduced.

Bids for a proposed new Commissary Building were being circulated.

The Moosehaven Dairy produced a daily average of 110 gallons of pasteurized and homogenized milk, which not only provided plenty for cooking and meal times, but there was plenty available in refrigerated dispensers in each Hall, for between meals and evening snacks.

Supt. McCall reported that on May 1, 1973, Moosehaven's population was 487 (294 men, 193 women). There were 57 couples. Average length of stay at Moosehaven was 5 years, 6 months. Average age of men was 78 years, 4 months and women 79 years. Residents represented 274 lodges, from 40 states (including Wash. D.C.) and 1 Canadian Province.

Herbert Heilman, a Mooseheart graduate, was selected as Director General to succeed Paul P. Schmitz, who had retired after serving as Director General for 20 years.

The Clay County School Board made an official request to buy 30 acres of Moosehaven's farm land. Partly because the School Board had the power to obtain the property through the "right of public domain," and because the Fraternity had decided to cease dairy operations, the Council approved the Moosehaven Governors request to sell approximately 40 acres for \$165,000.

Fred Kluge was appointed Superintendent of Moosehaven on March 13, 1974, following the death of Charles McCall. At the 1974 Convention, the new Superintendent presented the following statistics: In 1900, there were 3,000,000 Americans over 65. (every 25th). In 1974, there were 20,000,000 over 65. (Every 10th). It was estimated that by the year 2,000 there would be 29,000,000 over 65. (every 9th). Other interesting facts were that most men over 75 were married to younger women. Most older women were widows. 25% of all older citizens live in three states (California, Pennsylvania, and New York). 50% live in six states, the above three plus Illinois, Ohio and Texas). And, 75% live in 9 states (the above six plus Florida, Michigan, and New Jersey).

Supt. Kluge also introduced to the Convention delegates a Moosehaven couple, Evelyn and Orson Makley who were 92 and 96 years old, respectively, and who were celebrating their 75th Wedding Anniversary that very day.

Governor Snyder told the delegates that in addition to On-Campus religious services 40% per cent of the residents were provided transportation to attend the Church of their choice; and that Father Edward Rooney of St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church in Orange Park conducted Catholic services at 10 AM on Saturdays in Moosehaven's new Main Chapel; and that Father Rooney also spent many hours visiting Health Center patients.

Charles Brice, Regional Director for Pennsylvania, accepted a convention challenge to build a new Keystone Hall at Moosehaven; the Tennessee delegation presented a check to pay for a Moosehaven mini-ambulance, and the Union City Lodge in that same state contributed a 12-passenger lift van. Kentucky Moose pledged a dump truck; and Hopewell, Virginia, Lodge #1472 presented gold medallions and a cherrywood chest to hold them, for use by Opportunity Lodge.

In his 1975 Convention Report Director General Heilman announced that the Indiana Moose had presented him with a check for \$100,000. as its contribution for the construction of Cluster Hall at Moosehaven.

Moosehaven Board Chairman Gordon Jeffery told delegates that the Fraternity deserves much credit for establishing Moosehaven as a City of Opportunity to care for and enrich the lives of those senior Moose entrusted to its care.

Governor Zoba said there is a universal desire among older people to keep the maximum amount of independence for as long as possible; and added Zoba, Moosehaven Management continually strives to offer opportunities for residents to meet this need by developing jobs whereby they can make a meaningful contribution to their home community.

Mrs. Kandris (Kandi) Sponholz, a Mooseheart graduate who had acquired her nursing degree under the sponsorship of the Women of the Moose, was named Director of Nursing at Moosehaven in 1975.

Another Mooseheart graduate, Henry Pell, sold Moosehaven a convenient trash compactor which cut transportation costs to the dump by 7/8ths. Gov. Zoba concluded his report by announcing that a canopy now covered the pavilion at the end of the fishing pier, which now also contained redwood benches.

Supt. Kluge in his report told convention delegates that Moosehaven's Occupational therapy Program surely was what retired physician Wm. M. Happ had in mind when he wrote "What is needed to make the age of retirement the 'Golden Age' is a preservation of youthful enthusiasm tempered by the wisdom of age, of intellectual curiosity, of a never-ending urge to learn something new, to explore new fields, and the feeling that time is too precious to waste and that each day should end in a feeling of accomplishment. There is then no time for boredom."

The Michigan State Moose, at the 1975 Convention, pledged \$50,000 over a 3-year period for an outdoor recreation area to be named "Michigan Slopes."

And, Jack Tessier, speaking for the Canadian Moose Association pledged \$150,000 over a 5-year period for an Industrial Bldg. to be named the Canadian Vocational Bldg. He presented a check for \$21,596 to get the project started and later in the convention program added another \$10,000 check.

In opening the 1976 Convention in Washington, D.C., Director General Heilman said: "To my way of thinking, the two greatest (private) humanitarian and philanthropic ideas are Mooseheart (The Child City) and Moosehaven (the City of Opportunity). Referring to Moosehaven, Heilman added: Since its founding in 1922, up to today, 3,184 Brothers, Spouses, and Widows have enjoyed life at Moosehaven; and there are more than 500 residing there now."

After telling the delegates that Hope Hall (later renamed Zola Kenney Hall to honor the second Grand Chancellor of the Women of the Moose) already was under construction, Heilman said a new Keystone Hall, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Moose was scheduled for ground-breaking and construction shortly.

The Director General concluded his report by saying, "We must not - We will not - ever have a waiting list for entry to Moosehaven. Farsighted planning on the part of the Moosehaven Governors will keep us aware of their needs."

Supreme Governor John Hunter started his report on a pessimistic note saying "When I started my year as Supreme Governor I had a feeling that my country was rotting to the core. Crime in the streets, fraud and dishonesty in Public Offices, highly publicized events of wrong-doing, all tended to give a skewed picture of our nation." "But," he continued, "as I traveled the country, visiting Moose Lodges and meeting Moose families I realized that while evil and wrong-doing were newsworthy, they were not characteristic of the vast majority of Americans. I also sensed a new interest in Fraternalism, particularly Moose Fraternalism. The family concept of the Moose makes our organization unique; it contributes to the integrity of the family unit."

Moosehaven Chairman Jeffery gave new statistics to alert Convention delegates to the obligations that lay ahead. He said if projections hold, by the year 2,000, 17% of the population will be 65 or older, compared with 10% today (1976). In the 1930s the ratio between males and females over 65 was about even. Today there are 69 males for every 100 females, and by the year 2,000 this will drop to 65 males for every 100 females."

Governor Baldree, noting that the Moosehaven Research Laboratory was directed toward defining the problems of older people said a whole new period has been added to the life cycle. Leisure time, now provides a new period of freedom unknown to previous cultures.

Governor Freeze made the observation that along with housing Moosehaven also provides for all the health needs of its residents. He also said the Moose philosophy of helping people recognize their abilities - not their disabilities - is a pertinent factor in Moosehaven's success.

Governor Trawick reported that on March 11, 1976, the Moosehaven population had reached an all-time high of 516. He anticipated that it would remain the lower 500s over the next five years. However, indications were that there would be a significant increase of those needing nursing care. The Health Center patient census has held at 150 for the past six months. Preliminary discussions were held on the possibility of requesting a 70-bed addition.

The Maryland, Delaware, Washington, D.C. delegation presented an \$8,000 check to purchase a new offset press for the Moosehaven Print Shop.

At the 1977 Convention, Governor Freeze characterized the Moosehaven people as special. He said they are not a burden on the taxpayers, they don't need food stamps, State or Federal aid; and if they want something to do there are Sunshine jobs available.

Governor Trawick stated that new residents were coming in at an older age and generally in much poorer health. Some found the separation from family and friends too much to bear and demitted because of home-sickness. Others were persuaded or influenced by family members and friends to return home and seek readmission at an older age; generally, after they had virtually exhausted all their resources.

Moosehaven hired its first full-time Activities Director in 1975. she was Bonnie King, who was assisted by Viola (Faust) Johnson, a Mooseheart graduate. Mrs. Shirley Collins replaced Mrs. King in early 1976, and in turn was succeeded by Mrs. Bea Remley who did yeoman work in scheduling a wide variety of activities both on and off campus. A Hall Supervisor and a Nurse accompanied residents on all long bus trips. Betty MacMaster was hired as Activities Director in October 1983, and was still doing an admirable job as this book went to press.

The temporarily lower resident population came at a propitious time because two resident halls were in the process of being replaced. It was interesting to note that some residents prefer to remain in their old halls rather than move to newer ones, because it is their "home."

Sometimes one finds it hard to tell where fiction begins and fact ends. Here's an example: A large bell hangs in front of the Moosehaven Museum. The story told is that this bell was used to call old Hotel guests and early Moosehaven residents to meals, and also was tolled whenever a resident died. Also in front of the Museum is a Wishing Well which reportedly was made from stonework of the old Hotel after it was demolished. Perhaps Carbon Dating would be the only way to separate fact from fiction.

The new Superintendent John Bullock in his introductory talk to the 1977 Convention concluded with this quotation from Robert Louis Stevenson, "So long as we love, we serve; so long as we are loved by others, we are almost indispensable; and no man is useless while he has a friend."

The 1978 Convention celebrated the Fraternity's 90th Birthday. Supreme Governor Jack Tessier was Supreme Governor.

The Supreme Council announced the appointment of Charles Thulin as Comptroller, to succeed George Pelton who had retired the previous December.

General Governor Philip Morse struck a pessimistic note when he reported that "except for contributions from the Women of the Moose many of our lodges would be in serious financial difficulty."

Governor Baldree told the Convention that a well-built Maintenance Shop had been converted to the "Illinois General Store." It was fully-stocked with a wide range of merchandise. Every item is furnished to the residents without cost. Among the current projects was the refurbishment of the Carolina Building which was destined to become the Moosehaven Museum.

Superintendent Bullock reported four Moosehaven couples were joined in marriage during the past year.

Governor Freeze, in his 1979 Convention report, told the delegates that the fire alarm systems in seven buildings had been updated and refurbished. They combine heat and smoke alarm systems, plus a manual alarm.

Faith Hall, originally dedicated on March 9, 1952, had been completely air-conditioned; had an all new plumbing and hot water system; new floor tile and carpeting. Two new TVs had been installed in the hall lobbies. Empire Hall also had been completely remodeled.

Seminole Legion #81 (of which Opportunity Lodge is a member) furnished a kiln for the Ceramics Shop, and an electric cart for use by the Supervisor of the Cooks and Maids.

Governor Jim Shelton stated that the Moosehaven Museum would principally display artifacts donated by residents.

Supt. Bullock reported that applications were rising again; and in his opinion, the need for Moosehaven would continue as the cost of living and the medical problems of an aging population grew.

Mary Hunter, an Alaskan Co-Worker presented a large ceramic nativity scene to Moosehaven. (She also gave one to Mooseheart).

The California/Nevada Moose Association presented a check for \$10,000 to start plans for a complete refurbishing of the Three "I" residence hall, which was to be renamed California/Nevada Hall.

Past Governor Henry Kelly, of Phoenix, AZ., Lodge #708 presented Moosehaven with a \$500 check, and personally pledged \$500 a year for 20 years, to be used at the Paul P. Schmitz Health Center. Brother Kelly announced that the money already was set up in a Trust Fund.

On October 1, 1979, Ray Dickow was appointed to succeed Don Stewart as Publicity Director and Managing Editor of the Moose Magazine; and in 1980, F. Ross Fleet was named Personnel Director and Director of Admissions for Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

Director General Heilman, after stating that "there is no doubt that Moosehaven is the finest home of its kind, anywhere," quoted Abraham Lincoln, "The strength and vitality of any organization is entirely dependent on the interest and participation of its members."

Supreme Council member Irv Trawick told convention delegates that participation in CONPOR (Conference of Private Organizations) made it possible for Fraternal Organizations to be exempted from a state law that would have made it impossible for them to operate in the state of Utah.

The Women of the Moose announced that they would continue to supply hearing aids for Moosehaven residents, as they have done since 1953.

Addressing the problem of today's (1980) economy the Moosehaven Chairman said one reason for a continuing interest in Moosehaven service is that a pension of \$700-\$1,000 per month places one in a precarious position, with the current inflation rate around 17%.

Individual Lodges and Moose Legions often sponsor a particular activity, for instance in 1980, Frankford, IN Lodge and several Indiana Legions funded the bicycle (tri-cycle) maintenance shop; and Opportunity Lodge purchased an air compressor, drill press, and bench grinder for this project.

Moosehaven residents are both proud, and jealous, of their current dues receipt. All members and co-workers are carried on the books of their Home Lodge or Chapter, at no cost to the resident. However, if a Secretary/Administrator or Recorder is late in sending their current receipt, they are quick to hear about it.

The Florida State Moose Association maintains a blood bank account from which Moosehaven is a major benefactor. Occasionally, a resident also is acceptable as a donor.

An apocryphal story, attributed to retired Superintendent John Bullock, is that all Moosehaven newly-weds take a vow to have their first child born in the Paul P. Schmitz Health Center, and reportedly, there is a \$1,000 prize for the first such event. (Mooseheart would then have a potential new supply line).

In 1980, three residents were over 100 years old, and one lady had been a resident for 45 years.

Governor James Chappell reported the monthly utility bills (electricity, water and gas) averaged \$24,000. 211 employees work full time, some on round-the-clock shifts. There are 32 nurses, aides and orderlies. Medical bills are enormous, despite Medicare. He cited the following examples: Hip replacements - \$5,000-\$8,000. Heart surgery - \$8,000-\$15,000, and the average hospital stay (with surgery) cost \$20,000. All of this is provided at no cost to the resident.

In 1980, the Moosehaven Booster carried the following motto on its masthead: "It's better to be 70 years young than 40 years old."

After finishing remodeling the newly-named California-Nevada Hall, the California-Nevada Moose Association pledged to build a new Arts & Crafts building to be called the California-Nevada Activities Building.

Supt. Bullock announced that Paul P. Schmitz and wife Ann had purchased an Xray film processor, and stand-type blood pressure apparatus for each nurses' station in the Health Center. Also, the Kentucky Moose Association agreed to furnish one lounge in the Health Center to be named the Kentucky Lounge.

In the Supreme Council Report to the 1981 Convention, Council member Frank Sarnecki said that during the past year the Fraternity was successful in obtaining official IRS recognition of its tax exempt status based solely on the operation of Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

Supreme Secretary Carl Weis jubilantly announced that the Fraternity had experienced its 19th consecutive year of membership growth (the longest in Moose history). This was accomplished despite a 100% increase in the enrollment fee, and high unemployment in some areas.

The Convention also heard Supt. Bullock report that the Opportunity Lodge ritual team had been reorganized during the past year. The team already was busy putting on enrollments in North Florida and Southern Georgia, dressed in light blue tuxedos furnished by the New Jersey Moose. The team's average age was 75.

The California-Nevada Moose purchased a 380-pound bell for the tower of the new Activities Building. Regional Director Bob Steffler said the bell was forged in Hopkinsville, Kentucky at the turn of the century. Director Steffler said it was a nostalgic gesture to commemorate the inauguration of California's first Moose lodge. California State President Gary Fahl also presented a check for \$291,170.58 as partial payment for the Activities Building.

Director General Heilman opened the 1982 Convention on a sad note. He reported that Past Director General Paul P. Schmitz was missing his first Convention in 60 years, due to poor health.

A comprehensive Risk Pool Insurance Program was instituted during the year. It was an entirely new concept. It was anticipated that the program would have to be modified from year to year.

After boasting last year of 19 years of continuous membership growth the Supreme Secretary sadly announced a drop in membership during the past fiscal year.

The convention was reminded that Moosehaven would celebrate its 60th birthday on October 3, 1982. And, Rabbi Gary Parris, in his closing day invocation, spoke of the 1983 campaign slogan, "The qualities of Leadership and Service," which he said, in the Jewish tradition meant, "Leadership is not giving advice or orders, but by setting an example."

Moosehaven Governor Paul Schroeder said most lodges publish a monthly calendar of activities, but Moosehaven because it has such a wide variety of activities publishes a weekly calendar.

Governor Shelton pointed out that Moosehaven's statistics on longevity are contrary to the national figures. Government figures put the average life span between 68 and 72. At Moosehaven the average age is 82, and males outlive females by 2 months; the national figures show women outlive men by two years.

Supt. Bullock announced the appointment of Herbert W. Thomas as Asst. Supt. and Director of the Guidance and Counseling Clinic at Moosehaven. Thomas's duties also include Fire Marshal and Building Inspector.

Opportunity Lodge reported that Elgin, IL Lodge #799 had sent a complete list of its paid up members and a check for \$2,746 to cover their Honorary Membership in Opportunity Lodge. The Chapter also sent a donation of \$1. for each of its members.

A piano was bought for the Health Center. The money came from religious service collections of Moosehaven residents.

Supreme Councilman Bob Elliott announced the retirement of Carl Weis as Supreme Secretary and the appointment of Donald H. Ross to that office.

Brother Weis in his final report said that although as of April 30, 1983 membership had dropped to 1,311,975 paid up members, 24 states and provinces had shown membership gains, with Florida leading the way.

The retiring Supreme Secretary also announced that President Reagan had signed legislation which exempted Moose Lodges from the costly requirements of the Copyright Act of 1976 (Royalty Payments). In discussion of Weis's final report it was noted that he had served as Supreme Secretary for 24 years and that he had worked for the Moose Fraternity for 49 years (since 1934).

In his 1983 report, Moosehaven Board Chairman James Rivers asked delegates to "reflect back to the time you originally enrolled in the Moose. You probably thought I might need Mooseheart service for my children." But continued Rivers, "we never know how the future will treat us, as is attested by the several thousand members, spouses and widows who have found a safe haven from all worries at our City of Contentment."

Kandi Sponholtz, resigned as Moosehaven's Director of Nursing due to her husband's transfer.

Supt. Bullock declared his pride in the Ritual Team of Opportunity Lodge. He said they already have a full schedule of enrollments in North Florida and South Georgia, and that the team averaging 75 years in age was about ready to enter State Ritual Competition.

The "Eternal Flame" monument erected near the Main Chapel was a gift from Mississippi's Magnolia Legion #67. It is dedicated to all of the Fraternity's brothers, world-wide, who have passed from the Defending Circle.

Paul J. O'Hollaren who had succeeded the retired Herb Heilman as Director General told the 1984 Convention delegates "that as the average age increases at Moosehaven it becomes increasingly difficult to stay within budgetary constraints." Then, he added "Your continued support of our Endowment Funds, and special fund raising projects at all levels in our Fraternity will help assure that our Seniors at Moosehaven will continue to receive quality care." O'Hollaren concluded his report with this message: "I have always believed that the Loyal Order of Moose can thrive and grow under any set of economic conditions. In tough times the needs of our communities are greatly magnified and this growth philosophy has been proven through the various serious recessions of the past few years."

The Supreme Council report announced that it had considered and approved the sale of less than 10 acres of Florida property near Moosehaven for the sole purpose of Fraternal advancement and rejected offers for the remaining portion of approximately 20 acres and declined to enter any agreement for use of the additional acreage.

The Moosehaven Governors formed a Health Center Committee to study the plumbing system and to formulate plans and policies for its operation. This was done to comply with, and remain consistent with Florida State Law. It was given authority to obtain and review bids, and to employ experts to analyze the problems and to determine priorities for restoration work at the Health Center.

The 1984 Convention adopted a resolution making W. Wayne Wallace, the last survivor of Mooseheart's first graduating class in 1919, a Past Supreme Governor. (Wayne and wife Kimmie became Moosehaven residents in December 1990).

Following a story by Membership Director Jay Stoehr of Moosehaven Supt. Bullock meeting and enrolling musician B.C. Hathaway, and persuading him to visit Moosehaven, where Hathaway performed for the residents; Stoehr then played an audio cassette of Hathaway accompanied by slides of Mooseheart and Moosehaven titled, "The Heart and the Haven."

Moosehaven Chairman Rivers told delegates that the two basic reasons for choosing Moosehaven service were:

1. Security in their late years.
2. To give their children a chance to raise their own families without the additional worry and burden of caring for Dad and Mom.

Governor Schroeder reminded those attending the Convention that in 1922 (when Moosehaven was founded) that entrance requirements were just 55 years old and 5 years of membership. At that time there was no Social Security or Medicare. Moosehaven had no formal medical facility although portions of the first floor of the Hotel Marion (Brandon Hall) was used for that purpose. However, there was a doctor (on call). Basically, residents cared for each other.

Washington and Oregon State Moose paid for construction of a small greenhouse.

Governor Ken Johnson dedicated the Florida Archives Building on April 8, 1984, located in the James McKeown Picnic Area, during the annual Florida Days Weekend at Moosehaven. After reporting that approximately 300 out of the 535 residents were doing some useful work, Johnson said: "Happy is the person who knows what to remember of the past, what to enjoy in the present, and what to plan for the future."

New trees planted around Legion Hall in 1984 were part of a 4-year experiment undertaken by Clay County and the Florida State Dept. of Agriculture to determine which kinds of fruit trees were best adapted to the northeast Florida climate.

Director General O'Hollaren told the 1985 Convention that the combined Moose membership (lodges & chapters) had reached 1,775,227, the highest in the Fraternity's history; and that Florida led in membership gain for the seventh consecutive year. O'Hollaren also announced that all advertising in the Moose Magazine was eliminated starting with the July issue.

The 1986 Convention delegates cheered loudly when the Director General reported that combined membership had reached another all-time high of 1,780,106. He also recommended a change in the Fraternity's laws which would leave it to the Supreme Council to make allocation of the ABC dollars. Instead of 50% arbitrarily going to Mooseheart, the Council would allocate the money 'as needed', between the Fraternity's various segments, including Moosehaven.

Supreme Councilman Frank Buckler reported approval of two personnel changes: 1. F. Ross Fleet, from Director of Admissions for Mooseheart and Moosehaven, to Assistant Superintendent at Moosehaven; and 2. Paul Klinger from Mooseheart's Dean of Boys to Director of Admissions for Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

Moosehaven Governor Paul Schroeder, in his Convention report said: "A great many Moose members have never visited Moosehaven and have very limited knowledge of what Moosehaven is all about." He recalled hearing one member, who had visited the City of Contentment saying: "What a beautiful place it is. If I had known more about Moosehaven, the task of recruiting new members would have been much easier."

The Florida Moose bought a new range and refrigerator for the Health Center, replacing two appliances which were 22 years old and had been brought from the old the Health Center in 1969. The Maryland, Delaware and D.C. Association also contributed to this refurbishing project.

Speaking of the Health Center, Supt. Bullock spoke of the ever-increasing cost of operating this facility. Originally, the license was free, along with the inspection. Gradually, a license fee was instituted and was increased regularly, until in 1986 it was \$1,350 annually; plus a state Pharmacy license, a licensed food services manager, Barber and Beauty Shop licenses, a state-licensed dietician, food-handlers license, a state-trained Social/Activity Director, a specified number of Registered Nurses, licensed RNs, and state-certified nurses' aides and medical orderlies. The Supt. said: "Originally, one inspector took one day to complete his work. Now, seven inspectors take 3-4 days. Bullock said that despite tougher regulations and more thorough inspections the Health Center regularly is rated a "Superior" facility. Concluding his Health Center report the Superintendent said that out of 650 nurses in the United States certified in Gerontology Moosehaven has two.

In a lighter vein Brother Bullock noted that he had given away 42 Moosehaven brides so far, and another was scheduled for August.

At the 1987 Convention, Director General O'Hollaren officially announced the retirement of Superintendent Bullock and the appointment of F. Ross Fleet to succeed him.

The Convention approved a resolution to use income from the Endowment Funds to supplement Mooseheart and Moosehaven budgets, in addition to continued use of ABCD dues.

An independent survey of 4,000 Moose members showed that 25% were active members, 23% sponsored at least one new member during the year, 30% said they volunteered often for work around their lodge, and 70% said they visited other lodges in their District, and when traveling. 75% said their children were grown and have left home; 30% are retired, 50% had a partial high school education, 35% were high school graduates, and 35% were either college graduates or had attended college, average earnings were \$29,500. A high percentage intended to renew their membership. They like the Moose Magazine. They like their Home Lodge and the Supreme Lodge very much. Every member answering the survey listed the following projects as their reason for joining the Moose: Mooseheart, Moosehaven, and Community Service.

Supreme Governor Edwin Baldree said during his year in that office he traveled 67,789 air miles and 30,436 land miles while visiting 43 states and 3 Canadian Provinces. A personal highlight was meeting Moosehaven resident Phil Boyer for an enrollment at the Santa Ana, California Lodge 1025. Phil had traveled there for his grandson's enrollment.

The Supreme Council announced the temporary appointment of James Chappell as General Governor to fill the unexpired term of Philip Morse who had retired. (Subsequently the appointment was made permanent).

In kicking off the 1988 "Celebration 88" campaign, Enrollment Director Jay Stoehr said "Dr. John Henry Wilson had no idea of the fraternal giant he was creating when he wrote the ritual for the first Moose Lodge in Louisville, Kentucky in 1888." Stoehr said "99 years later, due to six Directors General and 99 Past Supreme Governors, the Fraternity now has 2,311 lodges, and 1,856 Women's chapters with a combined membership of 1,772,683, and 587-million dollars in assets."

In his 1987 convention report Moosehaven Governor Paul Schroeder said the Indiana Moose Association had accepted responsibility to replace the Commissary truck every five years.

During the years 1980-1986 the Honorary Membership Program of Opportunity Lodge provided Moosehaven with just under \$100,000 for much needed appliances, tools, equipment, entertainment and prizes.

The oil painting of Philip Morse in the Main Chapel was a gift from the Pennsylvania Moose Association, of which he was a member. Morse had been a driving force behind the New York Moose Association's campaign to raise funds to construct the Chapel.

The Moosehaven Endowment Fund was started in 1935 and was designated the Mooseheart/Moosehaven Endowment Fund.

At the 1988 Convention (celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Loyal Order of Moose) the Director General had played a video-tape containing a congratulatory message from President Ronald Reagan; and announced that the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives had passed a joint resolution lauding the Moose Fraternity for its work over the past 100 years. Canada's Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau also sent a personal letter of congratulations to each Canadian lodge. Numerous congratulatory messages also were received from state governors and legislatures.

As a result of recruiting efforts for the Centennial Year, by both the men and women of the Fraternity, gains in membership took the Order to another all-time high of 1,788,758.

As of this date (1988) Endowment Fund interest was providing 75% of Mooseheart's budget and 22% of Moosehaven's.

During fiscal '87-'88 health care at Moosehaven consumed 42% of the budget.

The Director General announced a major change in the Fraternity's regalia; tahs were no longer authorized, and Blazers replaced Robes; gold for Pilgrims, Blue for Fellows, and Maroon for Moose Legionnaires.

Supreme Secretary Don Ross reported that with over 2,300 lodges, 500 had under 199 members, 1,177 had under 399, 482 between 400 and 699, and 418 had more than 700.

Enrollment Director Jay Stoehr announced his retirement effective July 31, 1988.

Moosehaven Chairman Cecil Webster told Convention delegates that since its humble beginnings in 1922, Moosehaven had become a pillar of the town of Orange Park. With over 500 residents and 265 paid employees it provided a strong economic base for both Orange Park and Clay County.

Governor Bill Myers reported that over 80% of the residents were involved in some useful activity, with many involved in more than one.

Governor Schroeder reported that a program is underway to perpetuate the beauty of the campus. New trees are being planted so there will be replacements for older trees as they deteriorate. Supt. Fleet is supervising the project which is currently being funded within the Grounds Maintenance budget.

There were 244 men and 261 women in residence according to figures released by Supt. Fleet; and for the first time in Moosehaven's history women out-numbered men on July 21, 1987, and it appears likely this condition will remain for the future.

A Memorial Service was held in the Moosehaven Chapel on November 2, 1987 for Chairman James Rivers who died on October 26, 1987. Cecil D. Webster succeeded Rivers as Chairman.

Moosehaven also lost its Commissary Manager Bob Denton to death on December 21, 1987, at the age of 51. Bob had been employed at Moosehaven for 32 years. (His widow, Nellie is employed in the Health Center). Dennis Miller was hired to fill the vacancy.

Other personnel changes were the appointment of Francis Schaefer as Assistant Superintendent, effective Sept 1, 1987, and James Sturgeon as Director of Human Resources on October 1, 1987.

In December 1988 every Moosehaven resident, health permitting, was treated to a cruise of the Caribbean waters with stopovers at St. Maarten, the Virgin Islands, and Nassau in the Bahamas, as a highlight of 100th Anniversary festivities. The Fraternity chartered the Carnival Cruise Line ship "Celebration" for the trip. Regional and State Associations, Legions, Lodges and individual members donated money so its senior members at Moosehaven could enjoy an outing, which for many was the highlight of their life.

The Director General announced the greatest gain in membership in recent years at the 1988 Convention. The combined total had reached 1,804,198, another all-time high. O'Hollaren also said the "Fraternalism in Action" program of modernizing Mooseheart already was paying dividends. The total cost was over 4-million dollars but nearly half-a-million dollars was saved the first year through a 50% reduction in the cost of natural gas.

In 1988 the Director General announced important changes had been made in the enrollment ceremony; and that during the coming year about 90% of Mooseheart's needs would be met through income from the Endowment Fund, and 30% of Moosehaven's operating expenses would come from that same source. The Mooseheart/Moosehaven Endowment Fund now totals over 108-million dollars, and said O'Hollaren it is the single-most important factor in the financial structure of the Fraternity. O'Hollaren also announced that he had been at Moosehaven on April 2, 1989 for dedication of the "Centennial Fountain and Monument" which was paid for by the Florida Moose.

In the Supreme Council Report it was disclosed that the Supreme Council had given permission to create new positions to be called Mooseheart/Moosehaven Admission Representatives and Assistants for two purposes: 1. To educate the general membership about the services available at the Child City and the City of Contentment. And, 2. To assist the Admissions Director in working on cases for both facilities.

At a special meeting on Sept. 13, 1988 the Director General had proposed an exciting new National Community Service. It was named The Yellowstone Restoration Project and was started with a \$50,000 donation, and contributions were continuing to pour in.

Supreme Secretary Don Ross reported that British Moose now consisted of 108 lodges, with 4,710 more members enrolled than were dropped during the year, and that was a "first" in more than a decade. He also reported that there were 109 members in Bermuda.

Membership Director Bill Airey had set \$100,000 as a goal for the Centennial Cruise and was happy to report that the membership had oversubscribed that goal. In his Convention report Airey announced that 130 Moosehaven residents (everyone who was physically able and wanted to make the trip) had been accommodated. In a side note he said forty Mooseheart graduates were included in those participating in the Centennial celebration. Airey also announced that 75,000 Moose members now belong to the "25 Club," and that Father Heraty, Mooseheart's Catholic Chaplain had been enrolled in the 100-division of the 25-Club. The Enrollment Director then reminded delegates of another vision of the deceased James J. Davis, "Let us hope the Endowment Fund will grow to such an extent that it will be sufficient to operate the entire Order."

The Women of the Moose announced their five major projects at Moosehaven: 1. Beauty Shop. 2. Maintaining four resident halls (Katherine Smith, Zola Kenney, Academy and Faith). 3. Entertainment Fund. 4. Arts & Crafts Program. And 5. A computer system for the Commissary and Health Center which included an inventory control capability.

In his 1989 convention report Moosehaven Chairman Cecil Webster told delegates about Mooseheart's senior class visiting various Florida attractions, including Moosehaven, for dedication of the Centennial Fountain and Monument on February 2, 1989, which concluded their Florida visit.

Chairman Webster also stated that there were 275 3-wheelers currently on the campus; one for everyone who wanted one.

Supt. Fleet reported that all pilings on Moosehaven's 500-foot pier in the St. Johns River had been encased in cement, and all rotted cross members replaced, so it was now totally safe for resident fishermen and visitors. Fleet also announced that the Illinois-funded TV Security-Information System was now in place. The Information and Movie Channels were working beautifully - but additional work was still to be done on the Security system. In a lighter vein Supt. Fleet reported a call from the ACLU inquiring about a possible violation of the residents civil rights, which involved Moosehaven's marriage policy. It seems one of the new male residents was not pleased with the policy of having to wait for one year before marrying one of the Moosehaven widows, or vice versa.. Mr. Fleet said: "Our explanation satisfied them." Incidentally, the Supt. gave away his sixth bride on May 6, 1989.

Director General O'Hollaren, in his opening remarks to the 1990 Convention reported that both the Chapters and Lodges of the Order had shown membership gains, and that total membership now stood at 1,825,377, a new record in the history of the Fraternity. "Why has the Fraternity continued to thrive despite the country's economic ups and downs," the Director General asked? Answering the question himself, he attributed it in great measure to the LAMBS (Lodge Activity Means Big Success) program, which was in its fifth year. Brother O'Hollaren pointed to the Moose participation in the national Drug Awareness Program as a good example of the Fraternity's involvement in Community Affairs, and its concern for the welfare of all citizens. He then pointed to another national civic affair in which the Moose have taken a leading role, the Yellowstone Park Recovery Campaign. The Moose Fraternity pledged one million dollars for this project. Early donations covered one-third of the pledge and there was not the slightest doubt that the pledge would be over-subscribed. When asked specifically "to what does the Moose attribute its continued success," O'Hollaren provided a very simple answer, "The involvement of the family in every part of the Moose operation." Another meaningful contribution to the Organization's success is its expanded Sports Program, which attracts many young men and women to the Fraternity. The Director General then turned attention to the five year history of the Risk Pool Insurance Program and the continuing problems with assessments due to continually rising claims. He advised Delegates to confer with the Risk Pool Insurance experts to be sure they have adequate coverage. He pointed out examples from other Fraternities where failure to be adequately insured had been disastrous.

After speaking of the Long Range Plans for Mooseheart, the Director General turned the attention of the delegates to Moosehaven. He said he was pleased to report that the "City of Contentment" was continuing to fulfill the needs of the elderly there. However, he pointed out that new admissions are coming in at more advanced ages, subsequently, the cost of medical care will continue to rise at the same time that usage is showing a markedly higher trend.

The Director General praised the work of the newly-formed Mooseheart/Moosehaven Admissions Representatives and Assistants. He said applications for admission for both facilities almost doubled during the past year and attributed it primarily to the efforts of the new group.

O'Hollaren spoke briefly on the Supreme Council's recommendation for an increase in Lodge and ABCD dues, and mentioned some of the benefits that would accrue from their implementation.

And, in closing announced the retirement of Lance Spencer as Grand Herder of the Moose Legion, Director of Civic Affairs, and Secretary of the Mooseheart/Moosehaven Endowment Fund, effective November 15, 1990.

Supreme Councilman William Ponzo announced that three proposals for changes in the Fraternity's General Laws were being submitted to the Judiciary Committee. One of them concerned Moosehaven Admission Policies. At the Council's Fall meeting it had re-activated an action taken in 1951. The newly affirmed Moosehaven Admission Policy was "applicants must be members of the Order fifteen years continuously and consecutively, immediately prior to making application, that applicants join the order prior to age 50, that member applicants must not be less than 65 years of age, that they be dependent, in reasonably good health both physically and mentally, and that they assign all assets to the Moosehaven Board of Governors." Again, it is important to remember that this action merely reaffirmed action taken in 1951. However, the Council ruled that the restated policy would not affect those members over 50 who had joined the Fraternity prior to Jan. 1, 1990.

Councilman Fred Carbine reported that at the March session, the Women of the Moose said their membership had reached an all-time high, and that they had contributed more than \$250,000 to Mooseheart, over \$300,000 to Moosehaven, and more than \$2,500,000 to the Lodges. In addition, they had pledged \$110,000 a year toward the operating expenses of the Mooseheart & Moosehaven Department.

Councilman Reno Menapace reported that the Fraternity had declined a donation of 40 acres of land from a girls' school in Ohio, for use as a youth home, or a second Mooseheart. The Council suggested that it be offered to the Federal Government as a youth drug center type facility.

Supreme Secretary Don Ross reported that 43 applications for Moosehaven Service had been processed during the past fiscal year, involving 23 single men, 11 single women, and 9 married couples. The 25-Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The Club had 7,191 members at Convention time.

Grand Herder Lance Spencer reported that Moose Legion membership also had increased during the year and currently had 125,587 members in 218 Legions. Spencer also listed the following gifts from the Legion to Moosehaven during the past year: \$2,000 to purchase a security vehicle; \$2,600 for a gas range, \$250 to the Bowling Fund, and a large quantity of syrup. Seminole Legion #81, of which Opportunity Lodge is a member, is the largest in Florida and the 6th largest in the Fraternity.

Women of the Moose collected \$453,384 for Moosehaven during the fiscal year. Major donations were \$100,865 for a computer system, \$63,933 for Arts & Crafts, \$66,115 for the Beauty Shop, \$63,933 for Entertainment, and \$97,883 to maintain four residence halls, reroof residence halls, and the Moosehaven Museum. Also, the Co-Workers furnished a new dinner service for the Health Center including dinnerware, high heat dispenser, drying racks, delivery carts, serving trays and covers. The Ladies' organization now has 1,823 Chapters.

In his address to the 1990 Convention Moosehaven Chairman Cecil Webster said: "I can assure you that each and every Department Head fully understands this Fraternity wants to give all of our Moosehaven residents the very best care, in the most effective way possible."

Dorothy Davis, a 38-year veteran employee at Moosehaven who started out as an RN, fresh out of Nursing School, was promoted to Director of Nursing in 1965 and to the position of Health Center Administrator in 1971.

A Rose Garden, dedicated by son John to the memory of his mother Roxie Evans who served as a Housemother at Mooseheart for many years before taking up residence at Moosehaven, was completely renovated during the Spring of 1990. Resident George Oberg drew the plans and resident Joseph Adams assumed the duties of planting and nurturing the growth of the roses. About a year later Robert Fortner took over from Joe.

Governor Shelton announced that the Texas State Moose Association was going to install a Security/Information system with headquarters near the front entrance to Moosehaven.

The Pilgrims of Georgia bought a podiatry whirlpool for the Health Center. This was in addition to the physical therapy equipment provided by the Georgia Moose Association.

New bedroom furniture for each room in Faith Hall was provided by the Women of the Moose.

It is only natural that a donating unit wants to fund a project that can be seen by visitors. So, it was doubly-appreciated when the Florida Moose provided fire suppression systems for each resident hall kitchen.

Governor Frank Brand pointed out several examples of Moosehaven's Good Neighbor policy; particularly citing the Easter Sunrise Service conducted by the Orange Park Ministerial Alliance on the Campus waterfront every year since 1949; and the use of the McKeone Picnic Area by many groups. It might also be mentioned that Moosehaven permits use of its Auditorium as a voting place for a variety of elections; and each year the Classic Car Club uses the golf course area to display its prize vehicles, and the Balloonists group, who use it as a launching site.

As an example of resident activities, Governor Brand reported that during the past fiscal year there had been 218 bus trips to Area Malls, stores and restaurants. Also, there were 22 trips to Lodge and District affairs and Legion Ceremonials. Incidentally, the Opportunity Lodge Ritual Team put on enrollments at 17 Lodges in North Florida and Georgia.

During the year Opportunity Lodge paid to completely refurbish and refinish an Indoor Shuffleboard which had been donated.

Moosehaven Supt. Ross Fleet, making his third annual report to the Convention said there currently were 22 couples residing the City of Contentment who had been married between 50 and 60 years. In addition there were 11 couples married for more than 60 years. The current record holders were Arch and Nan Gray who had recently celebrated their 71st Anniversary. Supt. Fleet also reported that the present population was comprised of 87 married couples, 148 single men and 156 widows. The average age of new admissions was 76 years, 5 months and the average age of present residents was just over 80 years. The oldest resident was Toni Delpranticori who had recently celebrated his 107th birthday. Mr. Fleet also noted that 222 residents were engaged in 72 different kinds of "sunshine" jobs, all of which made a meaningful contribution to maintaining the appearance of Moosehaven.

In his remarks, Opportunity Lodge Governor Floyd "Pappy" Hall detailed the services provided free to residents through money provided by the Honorary Membership Program of the Lodge.

Secretary Bob Cottingham, who with his wife Vivienne are Mooseheart graduates, thanked and praised those Fraternity brothers who had been active recruiters for the Honorary Membership Program. Much of its success is owed to them, he said.

In opening remarks to the 1991 Convention the Director General offered the following quote: "History is made every day and records are made to be broken." He then announced that for the fourth consecutive year, the Fraternity's membership had set a new record of 1,307,717, and Women of the Moose had increased its membership to a new high of 532,783, for an all time combined high of 1,840,500.

After praising the membership for its support of the updating of Mooseheart's facilities into what he termed "the most modern facility for child care," Mr. O'Hollaren turned the delegates attention to Moosehaven saying: "we must not allow this beautiful facility to deteriorate." "There, too," he said, "we must plan on a long range basis." Different standards for care are required now from what existed in the early days of Moosehaven. Longevity, advances in medicine, and newly diagnosed medical problems of the elderly require the Fraternity to respond to these new conditions. The ability to replace or correct old body parts, despite the enormous cost of medical care, demand a reaffirmation of dedication from the Fraternity.

O'Hollaren revealed that new long range plans now being drawn up for the City of Contentment not only deal with the health of the elderly members, their wives and widows, but also look to the physical plant and its adaptation to the needs of the '90s and well into the next century. The Director General said at least five residence halls need replacement and others modernized; the Paul P. Schmitz Health Center, which is almost always filled to near capacity must be modified, and/or expanded to meet the residents needs for the years ahead. That most knowledgeable of all sources, the "grapevine" says that the start of the long range already is in an advanced planning stage. You'll read more about it in the report of the Moosehaven Governors. Continuing his report, the Director General praised the Moose Legion, which has played an integral part in the funding of Moosehaven since its inception, saying it has just recently made a commitment to provide in excess of \$300,000 a year to assist in defraying the cost of outside medical care to our elderly residents in the City of Contentment.

Emphasizing the recognition the Fraternity has gained in its ability to get things accomplished, Mr. O'Hollaren said the Moose Organization was selected as one of the key private organizations to spearhead what can truly be called the most comprehensive attack on the drug problem. The "Campaign for a Drug-free Society" to which Mr. O'Hollaren was appointed Chairman, is not a Governmental endeavor, but a program in which every major fraternal, civic and religious organization is represented on the Board of Directors.

In closing, the Director General reported that Endowment Fund interest now provides for 80% of Mooseheart's Operating Budget and 44% of Moosehaven's. In dollars that amounts to \$8,840,177 for Mooseheart and \$3,097,000 for Moosehaven.

Supreme Secretary Don Ross disclosed that as of April 30, 1992, the Fraternity had 2,153 Lodges with assets of \$492,674,819. It was a record high and an increase of nearly \$23,000,000 over the previous year.

Rus Wittig, new leader of the Moose Legion, announced a policy of his staff meeting with each Legion so their concerns could be expressed, and to get their recommendations and ideas so the organization could provide even greater service to both Mooseheart and Moosehaven; and to make plans for the next 22 years, which would bring the Legion to its 100th anniversary. Incidentally, the Supreme Council gave permission for a Moose Legion Committee to be named a Committee of each Lodge, in the General Laws.

Legion Councilman William Kain in his report further explained the Director General's remarks concerning the Legion's assumption of Moosehaven's medical care problems. Kain said that starting September 30, 1991, \$2.50 was added to Moose Legionnaires dues to provide funds to offset the ever-escalating costs of medical care at Moosehaven. This was accomplished through establishing a "Moosehaven Seniors Medical Fund."

Emphasizing the importance of the support given to Moosehaven by the Women of the Moose, their Convention Report detailed the following contributions:

1. A wheel-chair lift van for the Health Center.
2. X-ray Developing Room to be totally renovated with lead-lined door and with lighted viewing box and film processor.
3. Photo Christmas Card Program.
4. Beauty Shop, Maintenance of 4 residence halls, Arts and Crafts and Recreation Fund.

In taking a final look at the City of Contentment
Moosehaven's population has remained fairly constant over the past few years, with permanent Health Center residents accounting for 29.5%. In addition to an average of 133 permanent patients about 20 others are admitted for short stays following hospitalization, or for the usual illnesses that plague the elderly; which leaves 318 campus residents.

The distribution of population by age brackets clearly shows men dominant in only three categories, the 65-69, 70-74, and 90-94 groups. In total population, the predominance of women residents over men in the community's population began in July, 1987 and has continued since. The average age of all residents as of December 31, 1991 was 80 years, 5 months and 9 days.

As to the distribution of Moosehaven's paid employees, the number averages 250, which makes Moosehaven one of the top three employers in Clay County. Fifty-four are employed in the Health Center, of which more than one-third are engaged in direct patient care.

Of the current residents the average length of residence at Moosehaven is just 6 years 9 months and 3 days, 14 have resided here for over 19 years, with the longest being 29 years.

MOOSEHAVEN FACTS & FIGURES AS OF JANUARY 1992

Total residents 448. (212 men, 236 women). Average age: Men 80 years, 4 months, 6 days. Women 80 years, 6 months, 5 days. Total Average: 80 years, 5 months and 2 days. Oldest man 99 years, 10 months, 22 days. (This man, Russell D. Kipp, who had been the Print Shop Instructor at Mooseheart for many years, celebrated his 100th birthday on February 12, 1992). Oldest woman, 99 years, 4 months and 11 days. Longest length of residency for current residents, for men: 22 years, 4 months and 28 days. For women: 29 years, 1 month and 22 days. Average length of stay: Men 5 years, 6 months, 15 days. For women: 7 years, 6 months, 23 days.

Owned and operated by Moose International, it is supported entirely by the Moose membership, its Chapters, and Legions. It receives no Federal or State Welfare funds, or Medicaid, nor any Federal grants. Nor, does it receive any food from surplus Federal supplies.

Residents are cared for by some 120 doctors, virtually all specialists in their fields, which include MDs, Cardiologists, Orthopedists, Ophthalmologists, Dentists, Surgeons, Radiologists and Podiatrists. Our Paul P. Schmitz Health Center regularly receives the "Superior Facility" rating, the highest in the State of Florida.

Moosehaven is the largest employer in Orange Park, and third largest in Clay County behind Clay County School Board and Humana Hospital. Many of our 265 employees have worked at Moosehaven for over 30 years.

All meals are served "family style" in all resident halls and in the Health Center for those who aren't served in their rooms. During 1991, a total of 612,509 meals were served.

Following is a list of food items consumed in heavy quantities during the year: Potatoes, 27.92 tons. Cabbage, 4.02 tons. Carrots, 3.32 tons. Tomatoes, 3.31 tons. Onions, 2.5 tons. Bananas, 12.18 tons. Lettuce, 5,184 heads. Eggs, 26,490 doz. Oleo Solids, 8.7 tons. Oleo Redi, 1.56 tons. Cheese, 2,187.4 tons. Milk, 26,080 gals. Shortening, 5.44 tons. Meats, 45.99 tons. Vegetables, (canned & frozen), 52.92 tons. Cottage Cheese, 2.18 tons. Canned Fruits, 33.76 tons. Canned Juices, 14,124 gals. Granulated Sugar, 4.29 tons. Flour, 1.95 tons. Bisquick, 1.63 tons. Cake Mix, 2.4 tons. Cereals, 5.98 tons. Cereals, 5.98 tons. Ice Cream, 6,357 tons. Hot Tea, 3,056 gals. Iced Tea, 9,408 gals. Mayonnaise, 3,334 tons. Candy Bars, 20,760 bars. Canned Soup, 5.08 tons. Salad Oil, 2.1 tons. Coffee, 3.56 tons. Pudding, 1.45 tons. In addition, of course, there were thousands of tons of fresh fruit and fresh vegetables served seasonally.

Buckeye Hall is "blackout" because it was out-of-service pending development of the Long Range Plans. The same is true of the Michigan Residence, which in the old days housed the resident physician, for the same reason as Buckeye Hall.

Moosehaven Chairman Cecil Webster, in his report named the following as members of the Long Range Planning Committee which is looking into the community's immediate and future needs: Director General O'Hollaren, Supreme Secretary Ross, Comptroller Thulin, Director of Supreme Lodge Properties Dan DeBruycker, Moosehaven Supt. Ross Fleet, with himself as Chairman of the Committee. Chairman Webster said DeBruycker had spent a week at Moosehaven with Supt. Fleet and his staff to formulate a plan of action to present to the Committee. Webster added that the Committee had then met over the weekend of Dec. 15-16 and adopted a plan which was to be covered in the Governors Report, which follows:

Governor Bill Myers stated that the abandoned Underground Oil Storage Tanks were to be removed. One active tank at Buckeye Hall was found to be leaking so a decision was made to also remove all active underground tanks to prevent future problems. It was also decided to remove a 10,000 gallon tank serving the Health Center, because the cost of relining with fiberglass would be prohibitive. It would be more economical to use gas.

Governor Shelton reported that some 450 HVACs (Heating, Venting and Air Conditioning) units will have to be replaced since most of them already are over 10 years old. The recommendation was that they be replaced on a systematic basis. The Water Tower, built in 1932, originally was the only source of potable water for the campus, but since Moosehaven connected to the Town of Orange Park's water system, the Tower no longer is connected to the community's potable water system, and serves only for grounds watering. New technology now allows pumping directly from the well without the necessity of a holding tank.

Governor Brand reported that the Illinois Moose had completed its pledge for the Security-Television system and a major portions of it were already working satisfactorily.

Governor Geesey said the most important part of the Long Range Plan is housing. He pointed out that current housing in the community was designed for conditions that existed at time of construction, but times have changed, he said. The planned construction of five new residence halls will meet or exceed all current State and Federal standards and will be the most modern structures for care of the elderly of any facility in the country.

Another major facet of the Long Range Plan is to centralize all service functions in one area, at the north end of the campus. The present Maintenance Department, in the Canadian Vocational Building, already is located in that area. A new building to house Grounds Maintenance and the bike/trike repair shop will be needed; and provision also will be made for gasoline pumps and vehicle storage in the same area.

The introduction of the new Long Range Plan seems a good place to end this compendium of Moosehaven history. As you can see tremendous work has been accomplished over the first seventy years and even greater challenges appear ahead. However, it appears that the dedication of the Moose Fraternity to both the care of children at Mooseheart and its elderly members at Moosehaven shows no sign of lessening and the future of both facilities is assured.

The End.

Following are list of distinguished men, the Director Generals of the Moose Fraternity, the highest office one can hold; the Florida State Moose Directors and Regional Directors; the Moosehaven Superintendents; Chairmen of the Moosehaven Board of Governors; and, Moosehaven Medical Directors.

LISTS

DIRECTORS GENERAL

U.S. Senator James J. Davis
1909-1947

Malcolm R. Giles
1947-1953

J. Jack Stoehr
1953

Paul P. Schmitz
1953-1974

Herbert W. Heilman
1974-1984

Paul J. O'Hollaren
1984-1994

Frank A. Sarnecki
1994-

Florida State Directors/Regional Directors

1. Ralph S. Campbell, Reg. Dir. xxxx-1949.
2. Frank Ray, Int. St. Dir. 1949.
3. Robert Irwin, Reg. Dir. 1949-1950.
4. Otto Schleicher, St. Dir. 1950-1951.
5. James McKeone, St. Dir. 1954-1976.
6. Cecil D. Webster, St. Dir 1976-1987.
7. Robert M. Bullock, Reg. Dir. 1988-Present.

SuperIntendents

1. Thomas Howell, 1934-1944.
2. Major A.E. Haan, 1944-1945.
3. Stanley W. Petty, 1946-1946 (4-5 Months).
4. William A. Anderson, 1946-1952.
5. Wesley J. Leinweber, 1951-1958.
6. Charles H. McCall, 1958-1974.
7. Fred Kluge, 1974-1976.
8. John W. Bullock, 1977-1987.
9. F. Ross Fleet, 1987-

MOOSEHAVEN BOARD CHAIRMEN

1. J. Albert Cassedy, 1922-1933.
2. Norman G. Heyd, 1934-1951.
3. George S. Okell, 1951-1955.
4. Leo W. Ryan, 1955-1963.
5. Gordon Jeffery, 1963-1983.
6. James Rivers, 1983-1987.
7. Cecil D. Webster, 1987-

MOOSEHAVEN DOCTORS - MEDICAL DIRECTORS

1. Dr. Neil Alford, 1922-1924
2. Chiropractor Mrs. Laura Seeley, 1924-1925 (a Mooseheart mother of three who was a licensed chiropractor - sent by Rodney Brandon).
3. Dr. Remer Lane (resided at Moosehaven) 1925-1928.
4. Dr. John Hunter Carradine, 1929-1936.
5. Dr. E.C. Swift, 1936 - 1945 (he entered military service, and was succeeded by his father, Dr. A.K. Swift, who served with Drs. M.B. Bergh and his associate, Dr. Usdin during the war years. and until 1952.
6. Dr. John Owens was selected by Dr. Elliott S. Denney, Medical Director for the L.O.O.M. at Mooseheart to care for the health needs of Moosehaven residents, 1952-1959.
7. Dr. Cecil C. Collins, Sr., Medical Director 1959-1965.
8. Dr. Hinson Stephens, Medical Director Paul P. Schmitz Health Center, 1965 to present.
9. Dr. Mohammed Mendhi, served under Dr. Stephens from. 1985 to present.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Paul J. O'Hollaren, Director General Moose International, for granting access to Minutes of the Moosehaven Regents/Governors from the day the Committee was formed, and the Minutes of all Supreme Council meetings.

Kurt Wehrmeister and his predecessor Ray Dickow, as Director of Publicity for Moose International and Editor of the Moose Magazine, for access to their files.

Mike Schube, Official Moose Photographer, who provided some of the photos of the "old days."

Dr. Michael Sestak, retired Mooseheart Superintendent, who saw that I was provided with meals and housing while researching early documents at Mooseheart.

John W. Bullock, retired Moosehaven Superintendent, who contributed several anecdotes, personal memories, and other invaluable help.

Editors and Contributors to the Moosehaven Booster who provided many interesting items for inclusion in this history.

Dorothy Davis, Health Center Administrator, and a long-time employee in medical care at Moosehaven.

Arch Fredric Blakey, historian and author of "Parade of Memories," a history of Clay County, in which Moosehaven is located.

Reverend Thomas Ryan, retired minister of Orange Park Methodist Church, which is adjacent to Moosehaven.

Reverend Grady Williams, who ministers to those of the various Protestant denominations at Moosehaven, and who referred me to various local "old timers" whose memories were helpful in preparing this text.

Florence Ralph, retired Town Clerk of Orange Park, who held office during the period of property transfer from Moosehaven to the town of Orange Park.

J. Clark, a retired Judge of Clay County, who served many years as Judge and still works with the Clay County Historical Society.

The Hayden Burns Library in Jacksonville which maintains microfilm files of Florida Times Union and its predecessor, back to 1884.

Faye Stevens, Executive Secretary to Superintendent F. Ross Fleet, for scrounging through long-dead files to locate information for me.

Helen Taylor, supervisor of Computer Operations for Moosehaven, who instructed me in use of the "Word" program, and her patience in extricating me when I encountered troubles, and without whose help I could never have finished this project.

And, finally, a special expression of gratitude to Moosehaven Superintendent F. Ross Fleet, for use of a computer, supplies, Minutes of International Convention Proceedings, local travel for research, and for putting up with my continually pestering him with odd bits of information as I ran across them.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR.....

Robert T. Cottingham was born in Chester, PA. on May 2, 1913, the second of four children born to Robert and Margaret Cottingham. The father died in 1916, and the mother and children entered Mooseheart (the Child City operated by the Moose Fraternity) on February 1, 1920. The mother died there in 1921.

After graduating from Mooseheart High School, with both Academic and Vocational (Secretarial) diplomas in 1932, he attended Niagara University, on scholarship, for a year; then enrolled in Teachers College of Columbia University in 1933, on scholarship; left at the end of the academic year to seek work.

Employed in October 1934 by the National Broadcasting Company at Radio City, New York, on the Reception Staff (page and guide staff). Was promoted to the NBC Newsroom in 1935. Started as equivalent of a "copy boy;" promoted to Jr. Newswriter/Editor; worked primarily on the 5-minute ESSO newscasts, the first commercial radio newscasts. Was transferred to Washington, D.C. when NBC stations WRC and WMAL picked up the ESSO programs, and again in 1938 to KYW Philadelphia as Newsroom Manager when that city began carrying the ESSO programs. He became a Westinghouse Radio Group employee when the Federal Communications Commission dissolved the Operating & Management agreements NBC had, and acquired the additional title of Assistant Director of Public Relations.

With wife, Vivienne, and son Richard, moved to Southern California in October 1942; went to work in War Industries, first at Douglas Aircraft, in Production Control, and later at EMSCO Derrick & Equipment Co. (an Oil Tool manufacturer) as Assistant Personnel Director and then as a Liaison between Sales and Production Departments.

A second son, Robert L. (Les) was born in Los Angeles on March 30, 1943.

In 1945, was offered a position as Newswriter/Editor by the newly-formed American Broadcasting Co., at KECA-Hollywood and worked there until June 1947, when he entered Civil Service with the Department of Water & Power, City of Los Angeles; served in various clerical and clerical-supervisory positions, including ten years in charge of the Boulder City, Nevada, office (The DWP operated and maintained the generating units for public agencies drawing power from Hoover Power Plant (Boulder Dam)). Was promoted and transferred back to Los Angeles, where he retired in 1973 as Chief Clerk of the Power System Executive Office.

After twelve years of retirement, he and wife Vivienne became Moosehaven residents on May 27, 1985. He served as Secretary of Moosehaven's Opportunity Lodge for four years until he retired again in April 1991 to write this History of Moosehaven, which he declares will be his first and last attempt at a full-length book - fiction or non-fiction.

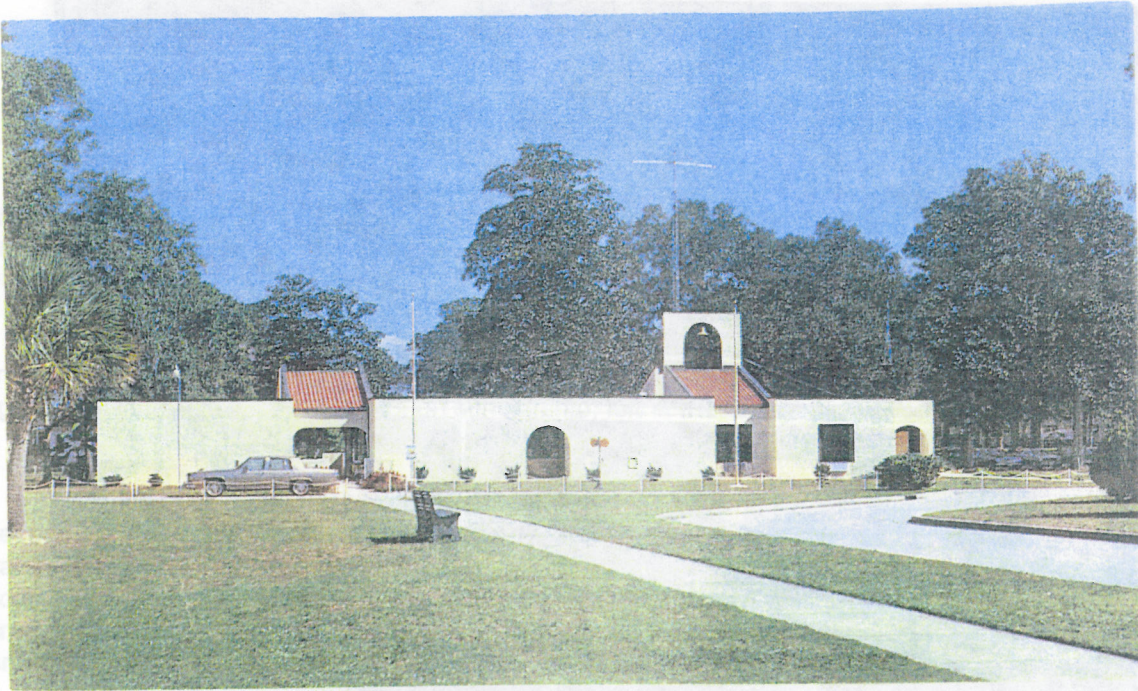
THE END



The Michigan Building, the community's reception center, funded by the Michigan Moose Association, was dedicated in 1967.



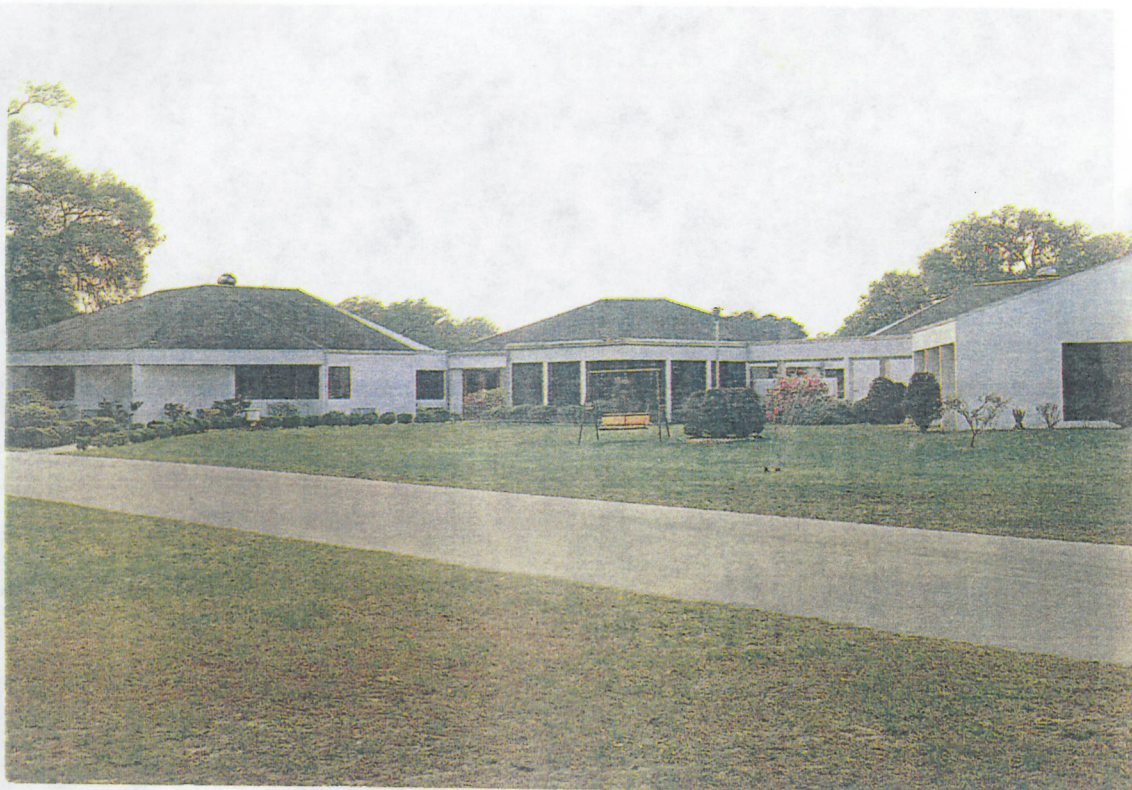
Moosehaven Chapel, funded by New York Moose Association, was dedicated in 1972. It is a non-denominational facility. In addition to Church services and funerals it serves many functions.



Californis/Nevada Activities Building,
funded by California/Nevada Moose Assn.
Dedicated in 1982, improvements in 1983.
Contains Ceramics Shop & Kiln, miniature
Railroad display, Leather-working Shop,
Short-wave Radio Studio, Painting Studio,
offices for two chaplains and one for
the Activities Director.



Florida Archives Building - funded by Florida
Bermuda Moose Assn. in 1984. Items displayed
controlled by the Association.



Cluster Hall - Funded by Illinois, Indiana and Golden Leaf Moose Associations in 1974. (First Cluster-type hall). 15 dbl. rooms, 12 singles.



Katherine Smith Hall - Funded by Women of the Moose in 1972. Named in honor of the first Grand Chancellor of WOTM. 4 dbl. rooms. 34 singles.



Legion Hall - funded by Legion of the Moose
in 1958. 27 single rooms (All Men's Hall)



Old Dominion Cottage - (Superintendent's
residence) funded by Virginia Moose
Assn. in 1946. Improvements and additions
made in 1981 and 1984.



Academy Hall - Funded by the Women of the Moose in 1964. (Complete renovation and modernization scheduled for 1994-1995). 4 dbl. rooms, 26 singles.



Keystone Hall - Funded in 1977 by Pennsylvania Moose Association. 15 dbl. rooms, 12 singles. Zola Kenney Hall, formerly named Hope Hall was renamed in honor of 2nd Grand Chancellor of WOTM, Keystone and Zola Kenney Halls are identical cluster type buildings.



Jubilee Hall - Funded by Legion of the Moose
in 1962, 4 dbl. rooms. 34 singles.



Ryan Hall - Originally named Western Penn in 1942
Original Moosehaven hospital. Re-named Ryan
Fellowship Hall in honor of Leo J. Ryan, a prom-
inent Moose Fraternalist with close ties to Moose-
haven



Moosehaven's Paul P. Schmitz Health Center, funded by donations of individual members, Lodges, Chapters and other units of the Fraternity. Total costs exceeded \$2,000,000. Dedicated in 1967. First patients entered April 1, 1968. Named in honor of Director General Schmitz who was instrumental in raising funds and seeing the Project completed.



In 1962, 4 dbl. rooms. 34 singles.



Ryan Hall - Originally named Western Penn in 1942
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Fellowship Hall in honor of Leo J. Ryan, a prom-
inent Moose Fraternalist with close ties to Moose-
haven. Additional information...