

Brief Outline on the Care of the Poor, the Sick, and Insane of Lancaster County, Pa.

BY HENRY A. SHOWALTER

For more than fifty years after the erection of Lancaster County the poor were supported by the several townships. Two Overseers of the Poor were elected in each township. The constables and assessors were required to report to them persons requiring aid or support.

A considerable amount of money to be applied to the support of the poor was given by Samuel Blunston of Columbia, by his will in 1745. In compliance with the will of Bernard McEnally of Lancaster, the institution was granted \$1,242.91 from his estate on January 4, 1813.

Similar provisions were also made by others from time to time.

The first organized provision for the support of the poor of the County of Lancaster at a Home of Employment was made under the requirements of an act passed by the State Legislature, February 27, 1797, and entitled, "An Act to provide for the erection of Houses of Employment and Support of the Poor in the Counties of Chester and Lancaster."

This Act authorized and required the election of six reputable citizens of the County to be "one body politic and incorporate in law," under the provision, style and title of "Directors of the Poor and House of Employment of the County of Lancaster."

The Board of Directors are empowered to receive, take, hold any lands, tenements, and to erect suitable buildings within their respective counties for the reception, use and accommodation of the poor; to provide all things necessary for the reception, lodging, maintenance and employment of said poor.

By the sixth section of the Act passed by the State Legislature, February 27, 1797, Edward Hand, Thomas Boude, George Musser, James Morrison, John Funk, Peter Ellmaker, Frederick Seegar, George Illig and Zachariah Moore were appointed trustees to fix and designate a site for the erection of the House of Employment. These trustees selected a tract belonging to Matthias Slough, located adjoining the boundary of the City of Lancaster on the east, south of the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, near the city reservoir. Resale of some of this land in later years disclosed that part thereof extended into the city touching the east side of South Ann Street.

To avoid confusion regarding subsequent purchases or resale of land referred to in this sketch it may be well for the reader to remember that the eastern boundary of the city has not been changed since the city was laid out in 1730, and that the eastern boundary extends slightly beyond the east side of North Broad Street where it intersects East King Street. The western half of the twin brick dwelling on the northeast corner of Broad and East King streets is located in the city and the eastern half thereof in the county.

The meeting February 25, 1799, disclosed that the Board received a deed from Matthias Slough and his wife, Mary, for 89 acres for a total of £3129 17s 6d.

The First Directors of the Poor

Replica of Buildings Nos. 2 and 1 as they appeared in the early days. No. 1 with belfry and flag on apex of roof.

Frederick Seegar, George Musser, James Morrison, William Webb, George Ilich and Zachariah Moore, the Directors for the employment and support of the Poor for the County of Lancaster, being respectively, and duly notified of our election by the Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions, met the first Monday in November 1798. After some minor preliminary business the Board adjourned to meet December 26, 1798.

January 22, 1799. It is the opinion of this Board that the farm be let for one year to a person who shall reside thereon in the Old Farm House, upon such terms as may be agreed upon by a Committee of this Board.

Ordered that George Musser and William Webb be a committee for that purpose and that Henry Wilhelm be the person they let it to, if they can agree on terms; he being a person strongly recommended as suitable for the purpose. Having taken into consideration divers plans of building, presented by sundry carpenters; Have adopted that presented by Hansell & Brumgard as the most eligible.

This plan provided for a building of stone, two stories in height with basement; length of building 150 feet, width 42 feet; first floor 9½ ft. high; second floor 9 ft. The sash of the windows to be 24 lights each 8 x 10 inches. Stone and sand were quarried on the farm. Tradition has it that red, white and blue glass in the transom above the main entrance was from the Stiegel glass works at Manheim.

This house was erected in 1800-1801, and the cost thereof, which is shown by a report made to the Court May 29, 1802, covering the period ending October 1, 1801, was —

Building material, tradesmen's bills, yard			
fence, bake house and pay of Directors			
for two years	£5616	19s	0½d
Less surplus material sold	43	14	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£5573	4s	6½d

The same report shows that from November 15, 1800, to October 1801, support had been given to eighty-four paupers, twenty-nine were discharged

and twenty died during this interim. The actual expense for maintaining paupers during this period was £1442 11s.

Hearths or fireplaces were built in the larger rooms. Since the installation of steam heat many of these have been removed. Others have been closed or converted into closets. The interior has been remodelled and modernized. Bathrooms, lavatories have been installed. Practically all floors have been covered with inlaid linoleum. About twelve years ago a switchboard was installed in the central office with telephone connections to every ward or inhabited building on the premises.

The exterior of this century and a half old building (now designated as Building No. 1) is practically the same as at the time of its erection with the exception that a front porch and fire escapes have been added. The front has been given a coating of pencilled brick veneer. Larger window sash with pulleys and weights have replaced the former narrow windows as shown in original wood cuts of the structure.

This building continued to be used as a House of the Poor and Employment to 1876 when the Almshouse, more commonly known as the County Home, was completed. Then all inmates were transferred to the latter place. From that time to the present day it has been used for the hospitalization of the physically ill, for office use and nurses home.

The basement with substantial composition floor is divided into three large compartments with auxiliary side rooms. These larger compartments were used as kitchen and dining rooms for many years. Some years after the erection of Building No. 3 all culinary activities for Buildings 1, 2, and 3 were centralized therein and the food prepared was distributed to the wards for such inmates and patients who were unable to go to the large central dining hall adjacent to the kitchen.

The First Physician

On December 2, 1800, Dr. John D. Perkins was elected to attend the House of Employment as physician and surgeon for the sum of \$90.00 per year. Dr. Edward Hand and Dr. Frederick Kuhn were nominated as consulting physicians for one year. Dr. Perkins resigned the following March 31, stating that he is about to leave Lancaster.

On April 8, 1801, Dr. George Moore was appointed physician and surgeon to visit the House of Employment once a week and oftener when necessary, at a salary of \$100.00 a year. Medicines used in the House were at the expense of the county.

The appointment of the aforementioned physicians to provide medical care, and the services of a steward and matron to supervise the physical comfort of the inmates, entitles this House of the Poor and Employment to be classified as a hospital from its inception. This classification allows it to lay claim to being the second oldest hospital in the United States in continuous service, being antedated only by the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, which was established fifty years earlier.

Several years after its opening a separate building was designated as a hospital for the sick, and was operated under the same conditions.

The First Steward

On September 1, 1800, Melchor Mellinger of the township of Lampeter was elected steward and his wife the principal matron.

Rules for House of Employment

Meeting April 16, 1800, George Musser, Matthias Young and William Webb were requested to prepare a set of Ordinances, Rules, for the government in the House of Employment.

July 30, 1800. The Ordinance and Rules, referred to in preceding paragraph, were presented which being read and deliberated by paragraphs, with some amendments, were adopted. Ordered that they be transcribed in order that they may be signed by members of the Board and then laid before the President and Associate Judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

August 12, 1800. Minutes show that Ordinances and Rules were signed by George Musser, James Morrison, William Webb, Frederick Seegar, Matthias Young, George Illig, members of the Board and presented to the Court.

These Ordinances and Rules filled ten pages, 7½ x 11½ inches in the minute book. They were approved by the Court at the August term, 1800.

George Musser and Matthias Young were ordered to have 300 copies printed in the English and German languages and distributed throughout the county.

New Hospital Erected — Where?

Whereas the Directors of the Poor and House of Employment of the County of Lancaster, have erected (in addition to the Poor and House of Employment) a Commodius House which is intended for the Hospital and for the reception of the sick and helpless who may be brought to said House of Employment. [No other reference as to erection, location, cost, disposition has been discovered.]

Be it therefore ordained and enacted by the Directors of the Poor and House of Employment, that a fit person be appointed, who shall superintend as a Matron of the Hospital and shall order and direct said Hospital agreeable to the following rules:

Here follows a full page of rules which were approved at the November term of Court in 1807.

Just where the hospital here referred to was built and when it was opened for the reception of patients the available records do not disclose.

An entry in an account book under date of December 31, 1806, shows that Margaret Herrington was paid \$4.53 for one month and four days servitude as matron of the Hospital.

In the minutes of the Board Meeting of April 3, 1809, the name of Mrs. Catharine Curry appears as the matron. Subsequent entries in the Minute Book indicate that Mrs. Curry's wages were four dollars a month and that she resided at the Home but that when her husband visited her his meals were charged to her account.

The minutes of the meeting November 6, 1809, state—in the Hospital, men 28, women 20, children 3.

Food and Beverage Regulations

April 9, 1811. The following Order was this day passed by the Board, viz:

Whereas, the feelings of humanity leads to such treatment of the paupers, and to have that sympathy for them, which their situation claims; yet justice requires that they should not have better provisions for their consumption, than many of the taxable inhabitants of the County have, who contribute to their support; neither should the manner in which the poor are supported operate as an inducement for others to envy the condition of a pauper; as in that case the bad effects of such an opinion getting abroad is too obvious to require description.

Under these impressions and in conformity with a rule for the government of the Institution, this Board directs the Steward and Matron, to have the following bill-of-fare prepared for the paupers until otherwise ordered by the Board:

1. For Breakfast—Either rye or barley Coffee, Cocoa, brown soup or tea with bread, molasses and milk.

2. For Dinner—One-third of a pound of flesh for each person with a sufficiency of bread and a change of vegetables as circumstances will permit—always with fresh, making a soup with shelled barley, rice or samp in it. Whatever may be left of the dinner to be used as a part of the following supper.

3. For Supper—Mush and milk, brown soup, tea or cocoa with whatever may remain of the dinner of the same day.

It must be understood and complied with, that molasses or sugar is not to be used more than three days in a week (except for the sick), nor any coffee used (except for the sick) but rye or barley coffee.

Indian Corn, in samp or hominy or meal shorts be frequently used as a grain, both wholesome and cheap. The bread must have not less than one-third Indian meal in it.

As the excessive love of Whiskey is the cause of many becoming chargeable to the County, and if too freely handed to the paupers will operate to their injury by keeping up their love of it as well as being inviting to others to devise means to become paupers in order that they may procure it on better terms and more of it than they can get out of the house.

Therefore, it is ordered that no Spirits or Whiskey shall be given to any in the House (those under the Doctor's care excepted) but to those who are employed in out-door work, and then only when so employed; to each one Gill per day except hay time and harvest they may have more.

To the women when they wash one Gill each, to the Baker on baking day one Gill, and to no other person not at any other time.

The Nurse in the Hospital to allow those persons who lay out a Corpse or dead person what Whiskey she may in her discretion think necessary.

The Board Practiced Economy

Among other matters the meetings of the Board disclose that from the inception of the House of Employment hemp and flax were grown on the farm.

The milling of the hemp was done by contract. Inmates helped in the preparation of these materials. Spinning wheels and looms were installed. A weaver was employed.

Settlements were made with the weaver in charge about four to six times annually to 1835. The following is a fair, average example of one of these settlements.

May 8, 1820. Settled with William Fulton for weaving done on the shares in the House from December 27, 1819, to April 26, 1820, viz:

1819 Dec.	27	37½	Yds.	Hemp linen	@.15 per yd.	\$ 13.12½
1820 Jan.	15	102¼	Yds.	Tow linen	.12 per yd.	12.27
	29	66	Yds.	Hemp linen	.15 per yd.	9.90
Feb.	14	75½	Yds.	Hemp linen	.15 per yd.	11.32½
	24	45	Yds.	Hemp linen	.15 per yd.	6.75
	28	22	Yds.	Tow linen	.12 per yd.	2.64
Mar.	17	75½	Yds.	Cross Barred		
				Hemp	.17 per yd.	12.83½
	25	32	Yds.	Rag Carpet	.10 per yd.	3.20
	31	30	Yds.	Tow linen	.12 per yd.	3.60
Apr.	8	31	Yds.	Striped Hemp		
				linen	.17 per yd.	5.27
	15	50	Yds.	Hemp linen	.15 per yd.	7.50
	25	63	Yds.	Tow linen	.12 per yd.	7.56
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679¾ Yds.						\$ 95.07½

To William Fulton for his half share of the above weaving, \$47.98½.

Some of the earlier settlements were calculated in pounds, shillings and pence.

At this meeting the census of the Institution was as follows:

House of Employment	..	Men 57	Women 42	Children 29
Hospital	Men 34	Women 37	Children 19

Total — 218

Admission 28, discharges 19, deaths 6, elopements 5.

Prior to this time and later there were from sixty to a hundred paupers on the list for out-door relief, each receiving from one to two dollars per month according to their individual needs.

On August 1, 1825, the Board of Poor Directors passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That all persons on the out-door pauper list (without discrimination) be discontinued after each and every of their respective quarters falling due in the months of July, August, and September, and that they be notified that no further outdoor support will be granted thereafter; and that they must come to the House of Employment to be maintained and supported there.

We find, however, that in 1833 a system of temporary out-door relief was instituted and continued for many years. Under this system lump sums, ranging from one to five dollars, were granted to the needy upon making special application.

In the early 1850's and for many years thereafter outdoor relief was granted. At the Board meeting, November 7, 1857, such relief was granted to 105 persons for a total of \$189.00. The census at this meeting showed: In House of Employment, Men 60, Women 28, Children 29; In the Hospital, Men 47, Women 63, Children 14, Total 241.

Asylum for the Insane

On a site east of Old No. 1 there was erected early in the 1830's a brick building. Specifications of this building have not been discovered. The basement thereof was used as an asylum for the insane, and the upper part as a hospital for the ill, aged, and decrepit. In a sub-basement may be seen several large wooden pillars with iron rings fastened to them about six inches above the ground floor. Tradition has it that the most violent or uncontrollable patients were shackled to these pillars and slept on beds of loose straw.

Planning Enlarged Hospital Facilities

June 20th, 1840. At a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Poor and House of Employment of Lancaster County: Present, J. Peters, Pres't, Dr. John Witmer, John Rohrer & T. Rodgers.

Resolved that the Directors undertake the building of the Hospital, and that Philip Brehm be employed as the Carpenter, himself and journeymen at \$1.00 per day each, and his apprentices at \$0.75 per day, and his young apprentices (should he have any) at \$0.25 per day; and to be furnished by the Directors with boarding free of charge.

Resolved that Messrs. Peters, Rohrer and Rodgers be the building committee, and that they employ such other mechanics and men, and provide such materials as shall or may be necessary.

June 3, 1843. It is agreed that John Bennedict shall have the plastering of the basement story of the New Hospital at \$0.07½ the square yard.

No mention is made with regard to fulfillment of the foregoing resolutions until November 4, 1854, when a report appears on the minutes that several Grand Inquests have reported in favor of building a new Hospital, whereupon a special meeting was called for November 11 to which the judges of this Judicial District, and the County Commissioners were invited.

At this meeting, after visiting and examining the Hospital and upon the full discussion of the propriety of erecting new buildings, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting it is inexpedient to build a new Hospital at this time, believing that with some additions at a small cost, the present building will answer for a number of years.

Bridge Across Conestoga

June 3, 1843. The Board entered into a contract with John Kepperling (Stone Mason) of Manheim Township, for the erection of a permanent stone bridge at or near where the floating bridge now lays across the Conestoga Creek several squares to the rear of the House of Employment.

To Erect New Barn

December 2, 1843. It is agreed by and between the Directors aforesaid and Henry Carpenter of West Lampeter in said Township (Carpenter) as follows, to wit: He, the said H. Carpenter, shall and will erect or cause to be erected in good, substantial and workmanlike manner at or near the present barn on the Poor House farm, all the wood and carpenter work of a Barn of the following dimensions, to wit, eighty feet by 40 ft. by 22 ft. and also a wagonshed 18 ft. and extending the whole width or breadth of the present barn or from 4 to 6 ft. more, with stalls in two stables, granaries, feed chests, and all complete on or before the first of June (44).

At least so much thereof as will enable the Board to house next summer's crop of hay therein, the overshot and 3 cupalos is included in the above, for which he is to receive the sum of one hundred and sixty dollars (\$160.00) in full for the whole or entire work as aforesaid to be paid to him in such parts or proportions as the work progresses. And that the said H. Carpenter and the hands employed by him in the erection of said barn, during the erection and completion thereof, and when actually employed thereat, shall be boarded and lodged at this house free of expenses to him or them.

An Epidemic of Cholera

September 3, 1854. The Superintendent of the Hospital reported 35 deaths during the month of August of which there were 28 died from Cholera.

It was on motion unanimously resolved that the Steward of each House have authority to hire such nurses and assistants as they would require to attend to the sick without regard to cost, and that the Superintendent be directed to carry out any sanitary measures that the Medical Board may direct.

December 2, 1854. Mr. Kauffman offered the following Resolution which was adopted: "The Board of Directors being fully aware of the arduous duties that devolved upon the Superintendents of the Hospital and House of Employment during the prevalence of the Cholera, and in order to appreciate their services during that trying time, it is therefore resolved that the sum of five dollars as a gift be paid to each of the following persons, viz: William Taylor, Mary Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Stehman & Rose Stehman."

Managerial Changes

January 15, 1855. Resolved that on and after the first day of April next the arrangements in the management of the Institution shall be changed as follows, viz:

The Poor House and Hospital shall be conducted by one Superintendent; the farm to be placed under the management of a practical farmer, both to be restricted to such rules as the Board may think proper to adopt.

On motion seconded, William Taylor was selected as Clerk and Superintendent of the Poor House and Hospital at a salary of \$500.00 per annum, to commence April 1, 1855.

At a board meeting held April 11, 1856, Director **Kauffman** was appointed to confer with Judge Henry G. Long relative to the expediency of selling the Almshouse property with a view of locating the buildings farther from the city. At the next meeting, April 23, Mr. Kauffman reported having waited upon Judge Long who does not approve of any other location for the Poor House buildings.

April 20, 1855. At a special meeting it was agreed that a committee be appointed to have special charge of the farm. Messrs. Brunner and Landis, Board members, were appointed for this purpose.

Moral Instructor Elected

At a joint meeting of the Board of Poor Directors and the Board of Prison Inspectors held March 7, 1864, John Tucker was elected moral instructor to serve at both places at a salary of \$300.00 per year. A joint meeting was held June 7, 1856, soon after the passage of an Act of Assembly authorizing the appointment of moral instructors, but action was deferred.

The instructor's time was to be equally divided between the prison and the almshouse by giving instructions to the prisoners and paupers in the English and German languages, also in regard to their moral and religious obligations, and to perform such other services as the Inspectors and Directors felt appertained to his duties.

Preliminary Preparations

April 7, 1866. That Messrs. Reed, Gast, Groh & Wolf be and are hereby constituted a committee to contract for and purchase the materials for the erection of the new Hospital, brick, lumber, hardware, etc.

Resolved, that John D. Bohring be appointed Superintendent of construction of the New Hospital Building at a compensation of \$3.00 per day whilst on duty for that purpose, and \$0.20 per day for each carpenter at work on the building as compensation in full for wear, breakage and loss of tools belonging to said Jno. D. Bohring.

April 21, 1866. Agreed to that the Hospital be 125 feet in length instead of 120 feet 6 inches, as was designated in the original resolution.

May 5, 1866. Moved by Mr. Gast, that the County Commissioners be notified that the Directors of the Poor expect to draw on them for \$5,000.00 in the month of May and for \$10,000.00 more in the succeeding three months for the purpose of the erection of the New Hospital. Motion agreed to.

New Building Finally Erected

Under provisions of a legislative act passed March 9, 1865, and another act passed April 4, 1866, the former authorizing the erection of a hospital and the latter an insane asylum, a brick building was erected to serve these dual purposes.

Specifications designated the building to be three-story with basement—33 feet wide and 125 feet long—to be built across the North end of the one erected in the early 1830's and joined to it. When completed and, as it

now stands, it forms almost a perfect letter T. In later years when a steam heating system was installed, an addition to house the boilers, etc., was attached to the rear wing.

The above structure is known as Building No. 2. The upper floors were used as a hospital for men and women, the lower floor for mentally ill men until their removal in 1942, as noted elsewhere. Since this removal the lower floor has been remodelled and is used as living quarters for men employees. The upper floors continue to be used for the hospitalization of women.

The County Home

The County Almshouse, referred to by many as the Poor House, but more popularly known as the County Home (designated as Building No. 4) was built on a hill in direct line with Building No. 2, and about a half city square to the eastward. It was authorized and construction began in 1874 and was completed in 1876, at the cost of about \$113,000 including heating, other internal fixtures and some road construction.

This structure is of brick, 228 feet in length with an average width of 55 feet. The central portion is four stories in height, the other portions three stories. Connected with this main building to the rear is a central wing 40 x 60 feet, three stories high, containing kitchen, dining room and a spacious chapel. This chapel is open to all denominations for holding services for the patients of the entire institution.

Upon the completion of the County Home it was occupied by the indigent, who up to this time were quartered in old No. 1, which was converted into a hospital for sick and decrepit men and women. Building No. 2 was used principally for the mentally ill.

The architect and superintendent of construction for the County Home was John Evans. The Board of Directors consisted of William L. Peiper, president, David Landis, John Fry, Adam LeFevre, Conrad Gast, Jonas Nult.

Like a Country Retail Store

A busy and very important merchandising plant is operated in the basement of the County Home, in charge of a competent "storekeeper." Merchandise is purchased at wholesale by the Superintendent of the Home by sanction of the Board and is parcelled out to the various buildings or wards of the institution upon weekly requisitions from authorized employees or supervisors of the several departments.

Obtainable from the storeroom are men's and women's clothing, shoes, bed linens, blankets, towels, toiletries, tobacco and other items too numerous to mention, for the use and comfort of patients and inmates; also soaps, cleansing powders, spraying materials, floor wax, mops, brushes, brooms, light bulbs, and in fact almost any equipment for use of attendants and nurses in keeping their various departments in sanitary condition. Here are also dispensed breakfast cereals, butter, oils, fats, canned fruits, vegetables, potatoes and what ever is required to supply four kitchens in the preparation of meals for inmates, patients, and employees.

Adjacent to the Storeroom is a cold room. Here are found sides of beef, pork, veal, and other perishable supplies for the culinary departments.

Some Physicians of the Past and Present

According to the minutes in the earlier days physicians were elected annually and frequently the incumbent was reelected. From about 1850 no conclusive records have been found concerning this particular phase of activity.

Mrs. William Rote, Jr., and Mr. M. Luther Heisey, members of the Lancaster County Historical Society, advise that Dr. Samuel W. Miller, then recently graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical College, became superintendent and resident physician in 1895 and lived in Old No. 1 for several years, after which he took up his residence at 907 East King Street, but continued his duties at the institution for some years.

From 1911 to 1914 Dr. William Steward was the resident doctor. He was succeeded by Dr. Claude Roop who served until about 1917, after which Dr. J. A. Capp, of Lancaster, was in charge until 1924 when the position was turned over to Dr. Mylin.

Mrs. W. F. Mylin reports that her late husband moved to Lancaster in 1924 and assumed charge of the institution's medical care for several years. He was succeeded by Dr. J. Lyte Ressler, of Bird-in-Hand, who served as visiting physician until Dr. Heim was selected.

In 1933 Dr. Edward Green, from Harrisburg, was appointed medical director and Dr. Herbert Heim resident physician. During the latter's incumbency the first complete set of case histories or files of all patients was completed. Both these physicians resigned in the fall of 1935.

Late in December of 1935, Col. James S. Hammers, psychiatrist at the Mayview State Hospital at Pittsburgh, was elected to the position and became the medical director in which position he has served ever since with an admirable degree of success.

Under his efficient supervision many improvements have been made. Modern equipment has been procured, latest innovations adopted; all for better efficiency in the care of patients.

On account of the extra duties involved when the insulin shock treatments were administered Dr. Karl E. Buri, now practicing at Intercourse, served as assistant to Dr. Hammers during 1937 and 1938. Dr. Louis Altman, of Greensburg, Pa., served for about a year after the resignation of Dr. Buri, until these treatments were discontinued for reasons advanced under the heading, "Insulin Shock Treatments" found elsewhere in this paper.

A Beehive of Industry

Early in 1937 at the suggestion of Dr. Hammers, the basement of the old hospital was converted into a work shop for mental patients, with the object in view of helping to rehabilitate them to a more normal way of life.

Several looms and other equipment were installed in the west room. Under a competent supervisor men were taught to make mattresses, various types of rugs, etc.

The east room was devoted to teaching women patients in sewing, knitting and other arts and handicrafts.

A suprising array of beautiful articles were produced, some of which were used in the institution, while others were put on display in the main lobby and sold, the proceeds accruing to the patients who made them.

Insulin Shock Treatment

Shortly after assuming charge of the local Hospital, Dr. Hammers became interested in Insulin Shock Treatment for the mentally ill which began attract-



Lancaster County Hospital Building No. 1 As It Appears Today.

—Courtesy Sunday News

ing attention and was adopted in some of the larger mental institutions throughout the nation. After putting the proposition before the Board of Poor Directors it was agreed to give the new treatment a trial. Necessary supplies and equipment were procured.

Dr. Hammers and several registered nurses familiarized themselves with the administration of the treatment by observation and study in New York City hospitals.

The treatment was administered here for about a year with variable degrees of success. Some patients were rehabilitated sufficiently to enable

them to resume their places in homes and in society; some showed signs of improvement, while others, according to the degree of original instability, did not respond to the treatment.

The treatment entailed considerable additional labor and expense and was discontinued after the passage of the legislative act of 1937 which provided for removal of all mental patients from County Asylums to State Mental Hospitals.

Building No. 3, Generally Referred to as "The New Building"

During the erection of this building in 1898 and 1899, the Board consisted of the following: in 1898, R. W. Bard, president, H. W. Graybill, J. S. Strine, J. H. Weaver, and M. H. Grube; in 1899, H. W. Graybill, president, J. S. Strine, Fred Shoff, M. H. Grube and J. K. Frantz.

This is a three-story brick structure, size approximately 80 x 150 feet. Located a short distance to the east of Building No. 2 and on considerably higher ground than the two buildings to the westward it presents an imposing appearance.

The first floor is divided as follows: large modern central kitchen in which food is prepared for all patients on the upper floors and for those in Buildings Nos. 1 and 2 and in the Hospital Annex; large dining room in which patients able to transport themselves, are served; a smaller kitchen in which meals are prepared for nurses and attendants who are served in an adjacent dining room; from this kitchen a cooked meal is served at midnight for employees on night duty. On this floor are also located cooling and refrigerator space, storage rooms, and men's and women's rest rooms. In a partial sub-basement may be found the plumbing shop and storage rooms.

The two upper floors are used as a hospital for men. In 1950 a modern electric elevator was installed in No. 3.

Preparations are being made to move all women patients from No. 2 Building to No. 3, and the men from No. 3 to No. 2. This change will provide elevator service for women patients and will greatly facilitate the removal of patients in case of fire.

All the buildings in the main group are connected with enclosed overhead bridges or passage ways so that it is possible to start at either end of the group and go to the other end without being exposed to the weather. Building No. 3 is also connected with building No. 4 via an underground tunnel.

Other Buildings

Buildings in the County Home and Hospital group not heretofore mentioned are laundry, morgue and Hospital Annex.

The Annex, fifty yards to the rear of Building No. 1, is a brick structure containing linen room, service room and six separate wards. Each ward consists of an anteroom, bath room, and bedroom containing three beds. A large covered veranda extends along the entire front and a full length sun porch to the rear. It was erected some thirty years ago under State supervision. In this miniature hospital the chronically ill find a pleasant home.

In the event of an outbreak of any contagious disease, as many rooms as are needed for the confinement of such patients are made available in the Annex. Registered day and night nurses are provided and every precaution is taken to safeguard the patients and to prevent the spread of the contagion. Incidents of this character have happened several times in the last fifteen years.

The laundry, several steps east of the Hospital Annex, is a brick structure of ample proportions, equipped with modern machinery. The morgue is located in the basement under the east end of the laundry. In it are four crypts for the reception of bodies. These crypts are automatically air-cooled.

Buildings of the Past

The road leading to the south between the farm buildings and the original House of the Poor and Employment (Building No. 1), was known as Creek Lane in the early days.

The original frame farm house stood on the west side of the lane. It was razed when the present brick farm house was built on the same side of the lane some fifty yards to the north.

A short distance toward the Conestoga on a high bank on the east side of the lane the wash and storage house was located. This was a one-story frame building, and according to reports was almost one hundred feet in length. It was razed when the new laundry was erected some forty odd years ago.

Farther down the lane on the west side stood an old stone distillery on the tract acquired from Henry V. D. Johns in 1844. This still house was converted into an isolation hospital for contagious diseases and was used for that purpose for some forty years. It was torn down when a new frame building to serve the same purpose was erected on the east side of the lane on the knoll near the stone quarry.

This was officially designated "The Isolation Hospital," but by scoffers was dubbed "The Pest House." It went into the discard when the modern Hospital Annex was erected some thirty years ago.

Before the erection of the present laundry, that site was occupied by a small frame building in which illuminating gas was manufactured for use in the other buildings on the premises. When electricity became the vogue, that type of illumination was adopted.

Occasional reference is made in the Minute Books to slaughtering of hogs and cattle for consumption in the institution. No definite location is given, but within the recollection of "Whitey" Sharp the butcher shop was located on the east side of Creek Lane down toward the quarry. The basement of the implement shed has been recently equipped and is admirably adapted for this purpose.

The Bakery

A few steps to the rear of the County Home stands a good-sized brick building known as the Bake Shop. Records do not reveal when this place

was built. About ten years ago it was enlarged, modernized, and a fine apartment provided on the second floor for use of the "boss" baker.

The principal product of this shop is bread, which is baked daily to supply all who eat in the institution.

Early records of the House of the Poor and Employment refer to a bake shop and the employment of bakers.

We would not consider this record complete if we failed to mention that Wm. B. Sharp, better known as "Whitey," has had charge of the institutions' baking for forty-eight years; and by the way, "Whitey" is a weather prophet of local prominence, basing his prognostications on the Dog Star.

Carpenter Shop

The carpenter shop is a two-story brick building, about 35x15 feet, located between Buildings Nos. 2 and 3.

Bought More Land

In 1823 a tract of 76 acres, located between the loop of the Conestoga Creek, southeast of the original tract acquired from Matthias Slaugh, was added to the farm by purchase from John Bachman and Jacob Shearer for the consideration of \$4,864.

July 1, 1844, a tract of 58 acres and 105 perches, in Lancaster City, adjoining the Poor House property and land of John Wetzel was purchased from Henry V. D. Johns for \$6,000. This parcel was known as the Spring Dale Farm and on it were a dwelling house, barn and other farm buildings.

December 2, 1844, a tract of five acres, bounded on the north by the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, on the west by ground of John Wetzel, and on the east by Poor House Property, was purchased at sheriff's sale for \$600.

These several additions to the original farm brought the total of the land owned by the Directors of the Poor and House of Employment up to approximately 225 acres.

Land Sold

In 1836 a tract of about five acres along Conestoga Creek was sold to Thomas Henry Burrows for \$199.

April 23, 1856, a parcel of three acres, near a newly laid out street off Ann Street in the city, was sold to Patrick Kelly for \$1,460.18.

April 18, 1865, the Directors of the Poor sold at public sale seven parcels of land on the east side of Ann Street, containing about 27 acres, for a total of \$4,624.

September 15, 1866, a tract of 14 acres and 123 perches with improvements was sold to William S. Shirk for \$4,674 at private sale.

On the above date nine acres were sold to Fred Piercy, without improvements, for \$1,357.50; also 17 acres to Fred Piercy and Charles Schwebel for \$2,230.

March 16, 1867, a tract of 14 acres, along the east side of Ann Street in the city, was sold to William S. Shirk for an unnamed consideration.

On the same date a tract of 26 acres on the east side of Ann Street, being part of the original tract purchased from Matthias Slaugh, was sold to Charles Schwebel for \$4,087.50.

March 31, 1868, an Act of the State Legislature authorized and enjoined the Directors of the Poor and House of Employment of Lancaster County to donate to the Trustees of the Home for Friendless Children of the City and County of Lancaster by a valid title as much land belonging to the Poor House Property as is necessary, not exceeding two acres, for the purpose of erecting buildings for said home.

December 16, 1905, a tract of two acres adjoining county land and lands of John W. Hiemenz was sold to the Home for Friendless Children for \$1.00 being part of the original tract purchased from Matthias Slaugh in 1799 and a part of the tract secured from Henry V. D. Johns in 1844.

June 16, 1950. The Lancaster County Institution District (which is the corporate title of the County Home and Hospital since 1937) sold a tract on the south side of Dauphin Street, between Stevens Avenue and the Conestoga Creek, containing 13.868 acres to the Lancaster Housing Authority for the consideration of \$11,687.80. This development is known as Hickory Tree Heights.

On the same date the Institutions District conveyed a tract of land along the south side of Dauphin Street and along the north side of Juniata Street, containing 6.17 acres to Lancaster Post #34 of the American Legion for the sum of \$10,000.

The Lancaster County Institutions District, a municipal corporation or body corporate, was created by the Act of Assembly June 24, 1937, being part of the same act which abolished the Board of Directors of the Poor, and which provided for the removal of all insane patients from County Institutions to State Hospitals for the Insane.

First Barn Fire

A special meeting was held April 11, 1856, in pursuance of a call made by the clerk, to take into consideration the recent calamity by fire to the Poor House buildings. All members were present; the following vote of thanks was adopted, —Resolved, that the thanks of the Board be tendered to those persons who benevolently rendered assistance during the calamitous fire which lately occurred upon the Almshouse property, and especially to the Firemen of the City of Lancaster for the zeal and energy displayed by them in their successful exertion to save the other buildings from the destruction's element. It was further resolved that a reward of \$500 be offered for the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons who on the morning of April 10th inst. set fire to and burned the barn and other outbuildings on the Almshouse property.

It was on motion resolved that immediate measures be taken to rebuild the new part of the barn, and that Messrs. Brown, Landis, and Heller be the building committee and that a reasonable allowance be made for loss of time, etc. Mr. Kauffman was appointed to confer with Judge Long relative

to the expediency of selling the Almshouse property, with a view to locating the buildings farther from the City.

At a special meeting of the Board, April 23, 1856, Mr. Kauffman reports having waited upon Judge Long, who does not approve of any other location for the Poor House buildings.

The above recording, as will readily be seen, gave no details concerning the conflagration and subsequent meetings of the Board contain no further reference.

Excerpts from "Lancaster Intelligencer"

From the *Intelligencer* of April 15, 1856, we glean the following: "Fire, which is claimed to have been of incendiary origin, consumed the barn and other nearby outbuildings on the County Poor House property on Thursday morning. It was discovered by inmates in the nearby House of Employment at 2 o'clock in the morning.

"City fire companies responded promptly but, the flames having gained too much headway, upon their arrival they devoted their energies to the salvation of other buildings on the premises.

"The barn 40x140 feet of stone and frame construction was totally destroyed together with its contents of 900 bushels of oats, 65 bushels of rye, 25 tons of hay, quantity of straw, 36 head of cattle of which 24 were valuable dairy cows, 4 horses and a quantity of farm equipment. A low estimate of the loss was estimated at \$5,000, not covered with insurance.

"A wash house, approximately 100 feet long, located 40 feet west of the House of Employment, was saved by the heroic efforts of John Benedict who stood on the roof and appropriated the water passed to him. The pumphouse about 20x20 feet in size, located between the wash house and barn, was also destroyed. The House of the Poor and Employment standing about 300 feet east of the barn was saved.

"Firemen were handicapped by lack of water, having only a 4-inch main and a spring for their first supply. They finally rigged up a hose line from a fireplug at the County Prison, three squares from the fire scene."

Asylum Damaged by Fire

In the library of the Lancaster Newspapers from the *Weekly Intelligencer* we find that a bank barn on the rear of the premises of Samuel N. Wetzel at 640 East King Street was totally destroyed by fire on Sunday afternoon, August 10, 1882.

While firemen were fighting this blaze flames broke out on the wood-shingled roof of the County Insane Asylum approximately a half mile from the barn. This was in the rear wing of the building now designated as Building No. 2. Very shortly after this discovery smoke and flames emerged from the slate roof of the main or front structure. Pandemonium reigned. Some of the most violent inmates were put into straight-jackets; others were handcuffed. All who were removed from the building were confined in the tramp yard nearby. Several escaped.

The fire was in due course extinguished but the roof of the wing was burned off and the entire building was rendered unfit for occupancy due to damage from fire, smoke and water.

Insane asylums at Harrisburg, Danville and Norristown were contacted. The following day 38 male and 25 female inmates were conveyed to the Reading Station and transported by train to the Insane Asylum at Norristown.

Immediate steps were taken to repair the damage and put the building into habitable condition.

With reference to this barn fire, Ellis and Evans' History of Lancaster County, published in 1883, says: "On Sunday, August 10, 1882, the County Home barn was destroyed by fire. Sparks from the conflagration set fire to the shingle roof of the Insane Asylum, and before they could be extinguished damaged it so badly to necessitate the removal of the insane patients therefrom. They were removed to Harrisburg on August 12, where they remained until the damaged building was put in proper condition for their reception." "In 1883 a new barn was erected about 100 yards west of the old Poor and House of Employment."

No minutes are available for the year 1882. The two foregoing accounts do not agree as to the location and ownership of the destroyed barn and to the disposition of the patients in the Asylum.

Under Legislative Control

An Act of the State Legislature passed June 7, 1923, provided for the establishment of the Department of Welfare. In it is vested the control of all state institutions, including hospitals and prisons. It is also granted supervision of almshouses, mental and medical hospitals conducted by counties. Its duties are to determine standards of administration and to recommend methods for the betterment in the treatment of inmates. Inspectors from the Welfare Department check the local institutions at intervals.

Local Authority Limited

Since the mental patients were removed to State Institutions in 1942 considerable adverse criticism has been prevalent because there is no proper place to confine such as may suddenly become violently insane. The County Home and Medical Hospital have been erroneously censured for not admitting such persons. The Act of 1937 forbids them to do so. Furthermore, they are not now equipped and do not have the personnel to handle such cases. The local institution has no more right to assume such responsibility than any other place of business or any private home.

The County Commissioners have arranged that such patients may be confined temporarily in the Marshall Square Sanatorium (a privately owned mental hospital) at West Chester, pending the necessary routine for permanent admission to a State Hospital.

Former Functions of the Directors of the Poor

It is generally inferred that the Board of Poor Directors is of minor significance simply because it is not commonly known that through State

Legislation from time to time they are vested with rather far-reaching and important rights and duties; among these are:

1. The right of eminent-domain.

2. The employment at useful occupation of inmates. Such employment may be extended to the use of inmates on public highways of the community.

3. They are granted the right to sell real or personal property belonging to an inmate, and to apply the proceeds of such sale to maintenance of said inmate. However, if the inmate in question dies and the proceeds have not been wholly expended, the remainder thereof reverts to the heirs of the inmate.

4. The right to sue and recover from either real or personal estate of inmates.

5. They may lease the real estate owned by an inmate of the Institution and apply the income thus obtained toward the support of said individual.

6. By consent of the County Court, they may borrow on or mortgage the real estate of an inmate.

7. They may sue and collect monies due inmates.

Fundamentally their duties are to receive, maintain and provide for, and employ all paupers, poor and destitute persons entitled to relief who are residents of the County of Lancaster.

Abolition of Poor Directors

The Pennsylvania Legislature enacted a law in 1937 under the administration of Governor George H. Earle, which provided for two drastic changes affecting local as well as other counties in the State regarding insane patients, namely:

First, it required that all elective Directors of the Poor be abolished and the government of the County Institution be vested in the County Institutions District composed of the County Commissioners who were to receive no additional compensation beyond actual expenses for their respective services in the administration of the affairs of the County Institutions District.

Second, it required also that all insane patients be removed from County Asylums to State Mental Hospitals. This transfer, however, did not take place until 1942 when slightly more than three hundred mentally ill were transferred from the local Asylum in compliance with the provisions of the act.

Under Guidance of Board of Managers

Upon the abolition of the Board of Poor Directors the County Commissioners appointed the former Directors as a Board of Overseers or Managers of the Institutions District. Their function has been curtailed. They serve in a suggestive or advisory capacity. All final action on any proposition is determined by the Commissioners. The first Board of Managers consisted of Ellis E. Brubaker, Bird-in-Hand; Clayton H. Nolt, Landisville; T. B. Jackson, Christiana; and Levi M. Martin, Blue Ball. The latter died about a year later, but the former three continue to function.

The Dairy is Passe

For many years a herd of 25 to 30 cows was kept on the farm to supply milk for the institution. In 1948 the herd became affected with some ailment or disease and was sold.

The barn was fumigated and plans were laid to convert the barn into a modern dairy in conformity with requirements of the State Department of Dairies.

Before these plans were carried out a tract of land was sold to the Lancaster Housing Authority for the Hickory Tree Heights development. Much to the surprise of every one concerned the survey disclosed that the barn is located within the city limits by several paces. Reports are current that a city ordinance forbids the housing of cows within its boundary, hence up to this time the barn is without cows.

Pigs and Poultry

The piggery and poultry houses are located on county ground. Large numbers of pigs and poultry are raised. These help to supply some of the meat for consumption in the Institution.

Personnel of County Home

Mr. A. H. Palmer is the Superintendent of the County Home and of all buildings and grounds (except the farm). He has held this position since 1933. All the inmates of the Home and all the employees of the Institution with the exception of the Hospital are under his supervision.

The register of March 17, 1951, shows 195 inmates of which 120 are men and 75 are women. Nine persons, including one charge nurse, are employed to take care of them.

For maintenance of buildings and grounds, for providing meals for inmates of the Home and patients of the hospital, and employees, to conduct the bakery, laundry, etc., forty persons are employed.

Some of the physically able inmates take their turn helping on the farm, in the laundry or hospital, or wherever needed.

Many of the male inmates are itinerants, who come to the Home upon the advent of winter and hit the road as soon as the bluebirds begin to sing.

Personnel of Hospital

The medical care and employment of help is in charge of Dr. James S. Hammers who assumed these duties in December 1935.

The register as of March 17, 1951, shows 240 patients of which 126 are men and 114 are women. To provide care and comfort for these, eight registered and eleven practical nurses, twenty-two male attendants, and several supervisors are employed; also office help, which brings the total of paid employees to forty-five.

Types of Patients

Not all the patients are physically ill. Some are here because they have no home; others are not competent to earn a livelihood and to take proper

care of themselves without guidance. Under proper supervision they enjoy doing various chores.

Among the physically ill are to be found patients afflicted with about all the ailments known to the medical profession. Some are partially disabled, others are bedfast.

The principal reason advanced for admission is, "No one at home to give proper care." The condition of some indicate the truth of this statement.

Some families yield with reluctance to the plea of their family physician to have their kin hospitalized here. After the admission and several visits to the patient they openly express surprise concerning the cleanliness of the place, the medical care and the nursing attention given.

Patients requiring surgical attention are sent to other local hospitals for that purpose, and brought back as soon as their condition warrants their return.

The number of patients in this division does not vary much as all available beds are usually occupied. Most of the time there is a waiting list of from five to twenty seeking admission.

Visiting Hours

Visiting hours are observed every Saturday from 9 to 11 A. M. and from 1 to 4 P. M., and every Sunday from 1 to 3 P. M.

Religious and Social Welfare

The chaplain of the Institution is the Rev. George H. Shea, pastor of the Middle Octoraro Presbyterian Church. On his stated visits he proffers encouragement and spiritual counsel to all whom he contacts. Other ministers, priests and rabbis visit their parishioners here to give spiritual uplift and to administer the rites and ceremonies of their respective faiths.

The Institution is indebted to and highly appreciates the efforts of various religious and civic organizations who help to brighten the pathways of life of the unfortunate here. Among the most active in this noble work are: The Jewish Charities, The National Council of Catholic Women, The Women's Auxiliary of the Seventh Ward Republican Club and The Society of Business and Professional Women. At intervals during the year, and especially during the Easter and Yuletide seasons they bountifully share gifts of fruit, confections, trinkets and other appropriate and useful articles for personal use or adornment with all patients and inmates. Other church and civic organizations also respond occasionally.

Church, Sabbath School and Young Peoples' Groups frequently bring cheer in praise and song in the several wards or in the chapel.

A song service is rendered every Sunday afternoon, principally by younger folks from Mennonite Congregations from the city and county.

The County Farm

The purchase of a farm for the establishment of a Poor and House of Employment has been noted. From Court Records and from references in old Minute Books, it is discovered that up to about 1850 the Directors of

the Poor bought adjacent tracts of land, but that after 1850 they began selling land and continued to do so to 1950.

No explanation is to be found for these transactions. At its peak the County Farm consisted of approximately 225 acres. Today the acreage, including buildings and grounds, old quarry, roads, orchard, and tillable land consists of slightly less than 100 acres.

Specialize in Raising Truck

Hay, grain and potatoes are produced on the farm, but much time and labor are devoted to raising vegetables and sweet corn. Several large truck gardens are utilized for this purpose. An acre of ground is planted with onions every spring and when this crop is harvested, celery, squash and pumpkin take their place. Several acres on the Children's Home premises are annually planted with vegetables and sweet corn for use at the Hospital and County Home. Ten barrels of sour krout are made every fall. Practically all the plowing, and cultivating is done with tractors.

Farm Management

The farm is under the supervision of the Board of Managers. Since the spring of 1949 Russell Bishop has been the farmer. Although at times handicapped on account of inadequate help which is supplied by inmates of the County Home, he is doing a good job.

Stone Quarry Is Idle

Stone for the erection of the original building was taken from a knoll down toward the Conestoga; sand was also taken out of the bottom lands along the creek. The quarry and sand pits were operated until within recent years. The great excavations and lofty exposed rock formations to the rear of the main buildings indicate that operations were suspended to avoid imperilling the buildings with blasting. Labor was done by inmates from the House of Employment and later from the County Home. Records disclose that thousands upon thousands of loads were sold for buildings and roads. In 1838 sand was sold at 6¼c a cart load and stone at 85c a perch.

Brief Flashes from the Past

The following terse notations taken from the records are intended to portray habits, customs, culture or practices of the long ago.

October 7, 1806. George Hensell was paid \$10 for making five coffins.

October 19, 1806. An order to Henry Kepple for \$10 for riding and assisting three days and three nights, and two days' horsehire for pursuing Poll Waggoner who had stolen 60 yards of "linnen" from the House of Employment.

December 26, 1806. An order was drawn in favor of Jacob Moyer, one of the Directors of the Poor, for one year's salary, ending in October 1806, \$20. Other directors were paid similar amounts.

December 29, 1806. An order to Joseph Lefever, Esq., for one year's salary as one of the Directors of the Poor and House of Employment, ending October 1, \$20.

December 31, 1808. An order to Adam Dellet for killing, namely, ninety-two head of swine at forty cents a head and twenty-four head of beef at sixty-seven cents per head at the Poor and House of Employment for the use of poor, per order of the Steward.

From 1805 to 1810. Records show that citizens who kept outdoor paupers in their homes were paid \$6 per quarter for their support.

In April 1810 an order was granted to Henry Zell for supporting and maintaining a sick pauper in his home thirteen days at \$1 per day; one dollar for doctor's bill, and funeral expenses seven dollars.

February 2, 1818. William Shubart was employed to do the mason work at the new bake house to be built the ensuing summer. George Hensel was employed to do the carpenter work on aforesaid building.

March 6, 1825. Agreed that the wool wanted for the house be bought from John McCaskey, and the quantity be about 200 lbs. at the cost of 37½c per lb., the hip and belly locks to be taken off.

June 5, 1825. Agreed with Henry Brackbill to supply the Poorhouse with good mutton on foot during the summer season at the rate of 5c per lb., to be delivered in lots from 10 to 15 sheep at a time according to the directions of the Steward. No rams to be brought after the first day of August, and previous thereto not more than one ram to every lot of sheep, and to conclude the account Mr. Brackbill agrees to deliver five lambs without any charge for the same.

June 5, 1825. Agreed that a committee be appointed to put up a temporary shed for such paupers as are able to break stones, and also that a new weaving loom be procured for the house.

Agreed that John Hatz shall pay 75c per week for boarding his son during his continuance in the House of Employment. Several years later the charge was reduced to 50c per week.

August 7, 1826. It was resolved that the Steward shall not give the paupers in the House of Employment or the hospital any more whiskey on no account or pretense whatever, after the present supply is consumed.

November 18, 1826. Henry Dorwart is appointed to do the tailoring at the Poor and House of Employment the coming year according to his proposal, viz: For making a coat \$1.50; for making a pair of pantaloons 50c; for making a vest 50c.

During December 1926 and January 1927 the Board purchased 24 steers on foot at \$4.50 per hundred weight, one cow at \$4 per cwt., and one bull at \$2.50 per cwt. Total weight 14,259 lbs. Total Cost \$595.61; also 51 hogs, total weight 11,037 lbs. at 4c per lb. In addition 23 hogs, weighing 3,072 lbs., were slaughtered from the farm.

February 5, 1827. Settled with William Dugan for weaving done on the shares in the House of Employment from October 18, 1826, to February 5, 1827, viz:

56½ yards plain tow	@	.10	\$ 5.55
42 yards plain Hemp	@	.13	5.46
28¼ yards rag carpet	@	.13	3.67¼
65 yards plain linsey	@	.13	8.45
52 yards bagging	@	.11	5.72
9 coverlets	@	1.00	9.00
30 yards plain linsey	@	.13	3.90
28 yards huckacheck	@	.13	3.64
24 yards tow linen	@	.10	2.40
65 yards plain cotton	@	.13	5.85
50 yards plain linen	@	.13	6.50
<hr/> 420¾ yards & 9 coverlets			<hr/> \$60.24

To William Dugan for his half share, \$30.12.

August 4, 1838. Resolved that Casper Weltely be paid the sum of eight dollars a month for baking—to commence August 6.

August 20, 1840. Resolved that the Directors undertake building of the Hospital and that Philip Brehm be employed as the carpenter, himself and journeymen at \$1.00 per day, and his apprentices at 75c per day, and his young apprentices at 25c per day, and to be furnished by the Directors with boarding free of charge.

September 5, 1840. William B. Reed proposes to deliver hard coal of good quality at \$4.75 a ton; accepted and 50 tons ordered.

September 16, 1840. The Board charged with and ordered paid the following:

- 1 Bbl. Wiskey 35½ gal. at 31¼c per gal.
- 12 lbs. pork at 8c per lb.
- 15 lbs. lard at 10c per lb.
- 2 Bu. peaches at \$1.00 per bu.
- 1 Bu. Apples at 50c

November 7, 1840. John Keller proposes to deliver 75 cords of wood at \$3 per cord: also, 25 cords at \$2 per cord to be hauled by our teams.

April 3, 1841. Resolved that the son of George Warntz, waggoner, be boarded at \$2 per month, washing included.

June 3, 1843. Contracted with John Kepperling, stone mason, to build a permanent stone bridge across the Conestoga, at or near where the floating bridge now lays, for the sum of 50c per perch, laid in the wall. The Directors to furnish all the stone, lime and sand necessary; to finding and procuring for said Kepperling and his hands necessarily employed sufficient boarding and lodging.

July 5, 1845. Resolved that the sum of 25c per week be charged Henry for the support of his wife in the Hospital.

Resolved, that the proposal of David Bair be accepted to deliver good, clean, Shamokin Swamp Coal at Graeff's Landing on the Conestoga at \$3.25 per ton (allowing 2,000 lbs. per ton).

November 1, 1845. On motion it was agreed to purchase from Emanuel Reigart, Esq., 70 or 80 cords of Oak Wood at \$2.37½ per Cord.

June 2, 1849. The correspondence with Marris, Tasker & Morris in regards to Heating the Hospital & Cooking Apparatus was read and on motion it was resolved to defer action upon the Heating for the present, and that the clerk direct them to put up the Steam Cooking Ranges and fixtures in the Hospital with as little delay as possible.

1850. Jacob Miller, wagoner, was paid \$10 per month.

January 4, 1851. It was on motion resolved that the Clerk and Superintendent of the Hospital receive \$375 per year in the future for his services.

May 3, 1851. It was agreed on motion that the Hospital Kitchen be enlarged. The census at this date was:

Remaining in the House:	Men	58	
	Women	33	
	Children	24	115
Hospital:	Men	48	
	Women	60	
	Children	18	126
	Total		241

January 5, 1856. It was agreed to take 300 bushels of potatoes from John Shank at 50c a bushel.

November 1, 1852, to November 1, 1854. For keeping female lunatic in the Asylum at \$1.25 a week—\$130.

July 1, 1857, to July 1, 1858. John G. Lichtenberger was paid \$9 per month for baking.

For year 1856. Margaret Carson was paid \$4 per month, wages as a nurse.

Chuly 30, 1858. A Charge was made for keeping a female child born November 14, 1856, to date, 86½ weeks at 62½c per week—\$54.06.

October 1, 1864. Mr. Fry, the Steward was authorized to purchase two sides of upper leather and two sides of sole leather for the purpose of making and mending shoes for both House and Hospital; also that the Steward build a common lime kiln for the purpose of burning lime with coal, of the capacity of 700 bushels.

May 31, 1865. It was moved and agreed to, that the paupers, who do not labor, shall receive meat as a diet but Four days in the week, and that the Steward and Superintendent may agree upon how much meat shall constitute a ration.

June 30, 1865. Moved that the front of this House be whitewashed. Agreed to. (For many years the front of this House has been covered with brick veneer and pencilled. When this was done has not been ascertained.)

March 24, 1866. At a special meeting it was decided to build a new Hospital at the north end of the old or present Hospital, and that John D. Bohring was designated to make a draft of a building to contain 30 rooms on each floor, seven feet three inches by ten feet, with a hall in the centre ten feet wide.

April 21, 1866. Board passed a resolution allowing Martin Spreckler twelve dollars for making four coffins for outdoor patients.

At the same meeting an agreement was consummated by which the Water Committee of Lancaster City Council agreed to furnish water for the House of Employment and Hospital for \$50 a year on a 20-year contract.

John Erb was employed as butcher from April 13 for one year at the compensation of \$80 per year.

November 3, 1866. Bill paid for one case Saponifier, \$12. (Obliged to consult dictionary for this item, and find it is a glucoside extracted from certain roots and barks which when combined with water produces suds. Evidently used in making soap.)

Smallpox—69 Years Ago

Last winter while making a purchase in a local store the salesman whom I have known for twenty years related the following: "In 1882 when I was eight years of age our family, consisting of my parents and three children, became ill with smallpox. Our family physician ordered removal from our home in the city. A team was procured and the family loaded into a covered spring wagon, and we were carted out to the County Isolation Hospital. This stone building stood beside a tiny stream almost midway between the House of Employment and the Conestoga Creek. My eldest brother was a barber's apprentice. Unknowingly he shaved a customer affected with smallpox. Brother contracted the disease. Next we all had it. This brother died in the Isolation and was buried in Potters' Field. The rest of the family recovered but were kept under quarantine quite a long while."

In the Past and Present

By way of comparison we find that as of June 1883 there were 205 inmates—125 adult males, 58 adult females and 12 children in the County Home. In the Asylum and Hospital there were 181 patients—95 adult males, 77 adult females, and 9 children, total of 381 of which about 100 were insane.

The expense of the three departments for the year 1882 was \$44,530.47; receipts, \$56,501.47.

From the County Controller's report for the year 1950 we glean the following: average number of inmates daily—Almshouse 220, Hospital 246, Total 466. Receipts: Apportionment of 1950 taxes levied—2 mills, \$294,822.56; Institution District, Collections, \$78,046.43; sale of real estate \$10,000; total \$382,569.29. Expenditures \$382,569.29. Included in this expense is an item for Family and Children's Services outside the Institution of \$43,655.50.

Barn and Crops Destroyed by Fire

A brief summary from the *Lancaster Intelligencer* of February 16, 1900:

Fire broke out in the barn on the County Home Farm last evening (Thursday). Two city fire companies responded promptly and played four streams into the blaze and on the nearby farm house which was endangered. Employees of the Institution rescued three mules, four horses, two bulls, fourteen steers and twelve cows. Notwithstanding the rapid progress of the flames the only livestock burned were three steers, a calf and two fine mules.

The barn, 120 by 65 feet, was destroyed together with between 700 and 800 bushels of wheat, 400 bushels of oats, 20 tons of hay, large quantity of straw and some farm implements. The loss was estimated at from \$10,000 to \$12,000. Insurance \$4,000. The fire was believed to have been of incendiary origin.

The farmer, Mr. W. E. Rutt, and his men threshed a large quantity of grain the previous day, and on Thursday were engaged in storing the grain and cleaning the interior of the barn.

Another Barn Goes Up in Smoke

The *Semi-Weekly Intelligencer* of Tuesday, March 18, 1902, says the fifth barn on the County Home Farm was destroyed by fire early this morning.

The fire was discovered by the farmer, William E. Rutt at 1:00 o'clock A. M. City firemen responded promptly but flames had gained too much headway and the efforts of the firemen were of no avail in saving the building. They saved nearby buildings from damage. The barn, 110x52 ft., was erected two years before to replace the one destroyed by fire February 15, 1900.

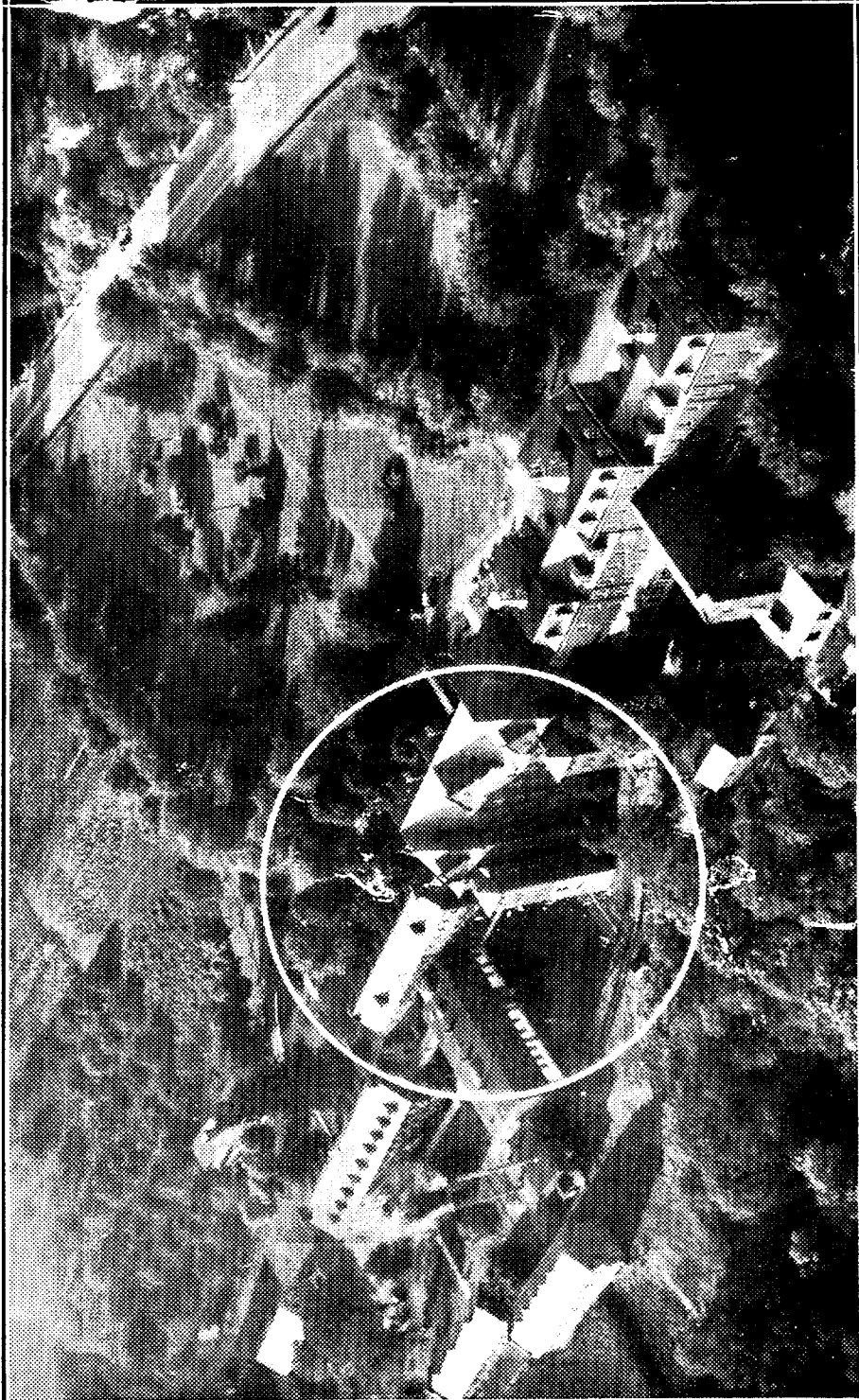
Employees and officials succeeded in getting out four mules, two horses and three cows. Destroyed were thirteen steers, eleven cows, four mules, three horses, one bull, one heifer, fifty tons of hay, lot of wheat, straw, feed and farm implements.

Mr. Rutt was making preparations to move to another farm and some of the livestock belonged to him. A fine driving horse belonging to Steward William Good was saved.

The fire was presumed to have been of incendiary origin. Tramps were in the habit of sneaking into the barn to sleep. The County Commissioners advertised a reward of \$500 for the apprehension of the incendiary. The barn and contents were insured for \$8,500. The loss was not immediately determined.

Slight Fire at County Home

On Monday afternoon, May 9, 1904, some employees of the County Almshouse were burning old clothing. A pile of brush and other rubbish caught fire. The flames spread to a number of wooden boxes in which martens build nests at the end of the Home. The roof of the nearby icehouse also caught fire, but on the prompt arrival of Fire Chief Vondersmith a plug stream soon extinguished the fire. The damage was not great. —*Lancaster Intelligencer*.



Airplane View of Buildings of the Lancaster County Institutions District in 1951.