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THE BETHANY ARCHIVES

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Spring has SpRuNg...here at Bethany!

It has been a busy month but, it is wonderful when things begin to slow back down and one can take a moment to pause and enjoy the sights and sounds presently coming to life on the Bethany campus. Recently, taking a walk around campus it was glorious to see the trees waking up with new resilience and peaking crocuses making their appearance from out of the underbrush. Spring is a wondrous time no matter where you are, but here at Bethany it is truly a rebirth of the soul and an opportunity for fresh air activities for the current residents, faculty, and staff. Keeping it simple this month we will include some wonderful writing and pictures of spring's past here at Bethany Children's Home.

“Spring...Because of the long hard winter through which we have just passed Spring is exceptionally welcome this year. Already groups of boys can be seen all over our property with rakes, shovels and wheel-barrows cleaning up the debris of winter. Outside repairs that give one the feeling of imminent open weather are in full sway. The plowmen are busy on higher levels and the sight of newly turned turf is quite invigorating. Robins are with us in large numbers. We have also woodpeckers, thrush and cardinals in fair numbers. Who can doubt, with all these harbingers of Spring in our midst that the snows and occasional freezes are but the last desperate, short-lived throes of a die-hard winter. Soon all nature will burst forth into an exhilarating new growth of beautiful green foliage.”

(Rev. R.S. Vandevere, B.D., 1947)

WHAT IS SPRING...

--Barbara Hartman, 1945

There are many signs of spring. The girls and boys are getting their roller skates. The boys are making kites for the winds of March. The girls are getting their jumping ropes.

Sometimes we get a glance of a robin coming back to Bethany. All the snow is gone except at a few icy places on the north side of trees and buildings. As we go to study hour, we notice that days are becoming much longer. We all feel that spring is just around the corner.



Spring 1964,
“Dusty” a 3 year old Shetland pony at Bethany

Spring, 1965
Fishing Derby



Spring, 1972
Clean-Up And Plant Down!

What's been happening in the Archives...

One of the biggest focuses we have had, this last year, was to complete the excel spreadsheet version of the "Book of Life", this document will list every child serviced by Bethany from 1863 to today; as of last week we have made it to 1986 when Rev. Harold A. Henning became Superintendent. The most interesting part of this documentation is all the data we will be able to mine from the comprehensive listing of residents. Another benefit we have seen is the ease with which we can research and pinpoint Bethany boys and girls as the requests come in for information on family members. Using the data we have been able to assign a number of Bethany boys and girls served during each tenure of our Superintendents. Once the process is complete we can release an accurate list of data to our reading audience!

In addition to the data mining we have undertaken, we are also making bridges to communicate with our alumni and doing considerable community outreach; this summer we will have a troop of Boy Scouts, #155, working on campus with one of our Alumni to complete an Eagle Scout project. And those same young men will be joining your archivist to learn about photograph digitization, in hopes of completely digitizing our photograph collection before our next Alumni Day.

Busy, busy, busy...that's the way we like it!

Homer's to meet!!

Don't forget the next meeting of the Homer's which will be:

**April 5th
9:00 a.m.**

Heidelberg Family Restaurant

Meet the Archivist!!!
Hoping to see you all there!



Join us on Facebook @

<https://www.facebook.com/bethanyhome1863/>

Each week you can be, motivated to start your week with "Motivational Monday"...dig into the past with "Throwback Thursday"...or enjoy your Saturday morning coffee/tea during "Saturday with the Archivist".

Campus Memorial Trees...

When families remember those who no longer walk the earth, one way available, is through a Memorial Tree here at Bethany.

Over the years some of those trees have died off, for various reasons, and at present we would like to replace fifteen trees on campus.

"Replace the Memorial Trees"

When our Eagle Scouts, Troop 155, visit this summer we would like to have them, along with our Alumni, Bill Augustine re-plant, identify, and clean all other plaques on our campus.

Please help us reach our goal of 15 trees, monetary donation, to re-plant these lasting and sustainable memorials to loved ones. Just one more item we can celebrate at Alumni Day this year!

***We are a family and in this together
we forever shall be!***

Memorial Tree Fund

**c/o Jennifer M. Koch, Archivist
Bethany Children's Home**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Donation Amount: _____

*Please include your address so that we can thank you
and send a receipt of your donation.*