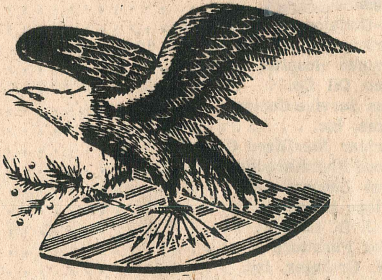


BICENTENNIAL

1776-1976



"Remembrances of Days Gone By"

Iowa Lutheran Home for the Aged

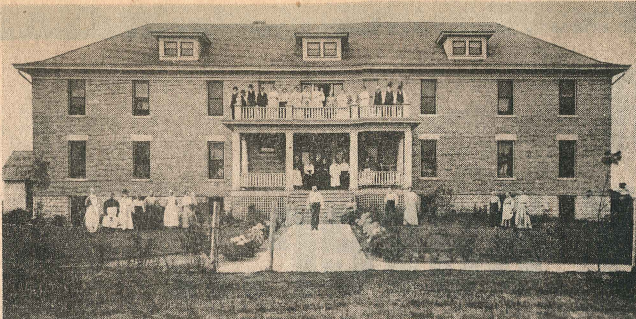
For half a century, in adversity and prosperity, war and peace, fire and destruction, the Iowa Lutheran Home for the Aged has given Christian service to old folks unable to care for themselves. At this Home admittance is based on need only.

Plans for the original home in Madrid were made in 1904, but it wasn't until 1906 that a home in rented quarters was opened.



The founding board members and Sister Christine Monson, first matron at the Home are shown in front of the first temporary Home for the Aged, used between 1906-1908.

The building was constructed in 1908 on land donated by the Madrid community. The new two-story structure measured 36' by 120' and housed 25 residents at its initial opening. It was and still continues to be one of the most modern and well-equipped homes for the aged.



The residents and staff of the permanent first Home for the Aged as it looked in 1908 is shown here. It housed residents until a disastrous fire completely destroyed it on Jan. 16, 1948.

In 1916 an addition of a west wing was completed and the total occupancy of the Home increased to 60. The addition of the east wing, which would have provided much more needed space in the early years was delayed by a fire, one of the worst disasters in Madrid history in 1948. At this time, on January 16, there were 65 residents and staff members at the Home, but no one was injured, due primarily to the efforts of Mrs. Martha Sanborn, who along with her husband, Gust, served as matron and superintendent respectively of the Iowa Lutheran Home for a period of 18 years from 1942-1960. Mrs. Sanborn received an award citation from Governor Blue for her efficient and heroic efforts. The fire began in the attic and completely destroyed the 2½ story, block-long structure. Firemen from Madrid, Woodward, Boone

and Slater battled the blaze but were unsuccessful in their attempts to save the structure. Loss was estimated at \$200,000.

Following the blaze, residents were housed at St. John's Lutheran Church, at the homes of friends and relatives and finally at the Federal Hospital buildings at Camp Dodge where they remained until around 1950.

Shortly after the fire, work on a new building began which cost in the area of \$500,000.

The Home at that time had two buildings adjacent to each other. One had two infirmary floors and a main office. On the main floor was the offices, several parlors, library, restrooms, dining room and kitchen. The basement housed the heating plant, laundry facilities, bakery, janitor quarters and several storage rooms.

A superintendent's home was built on the property in the mid-50's and an adjoining house was leased and remodeled to provide room for ten additional residents. A nurse's home was also built and at one time housed ten nurses who worked at the infirmary.

The building of this new structure came after a bit of difficulty. The tragedy of the fire also struck the community and surrounding area and they took an active interest in seeing this new structure was built. Having the temporary housing problem remedied by the Camp Dodge facilities the next problem was that of finances to pay for the construction work. The Iowa Guild contributed \$215,000 and the local citizens of the community and as well as those of St. John's Lutheran Church raised almost \$35,000.

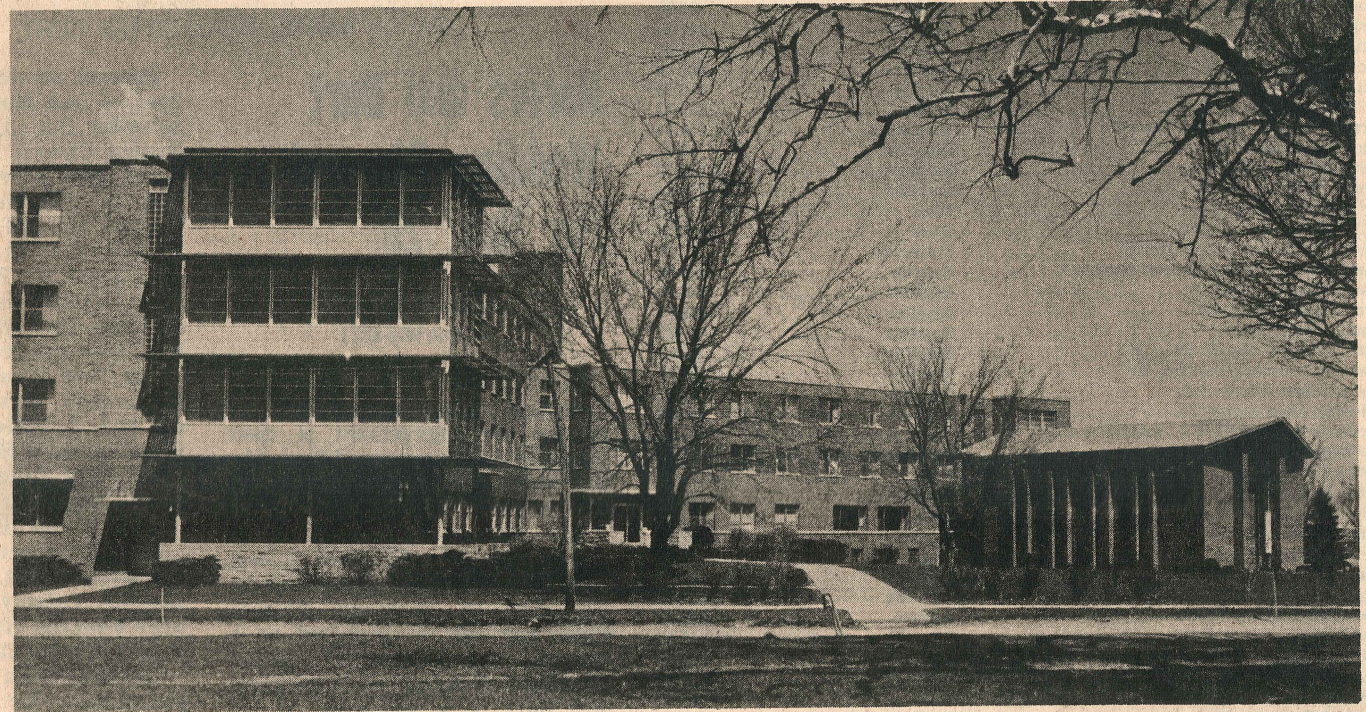
Mr. Sanborn called the fire a "blessing in disguise." Ground was broken for the newly constructed and modern-equipped Home on Nov. 17, 1948, with the corner stone being laid on July 31, 1949. The new brick and Mankato stone structure contained pastel colored rooms, sunny parlors, dining rooms and a stainless steel kitchen. The new plant consisted of two buildings, one a three-story structure with a main floor and two infirmary floors, the other a one-story residence hall.

The Home was dedicated officially on April 23, 1950 with almost 2000 people in attendance. Dr. P. O. Bersell of Minneapolis, president of the Augustana Lutheran Church delivered the dedication address. Dr. C. E. Benson, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church when the first Home opened, also attended the dedication ceremony. Then on June 2, the residents were returned to the Home from their temporary housing facilities at Camp Dodge.

The Lutheran Home of 1956 measured 265' x 50' and had a holding capacity of 100 beds. There were 37 qualified workers and 17 nurses employed at the time.

By 1956, the need of more building and housing facilities were foreseen and the idea for three more stories to be added to the prevailing west wing, which would increase the housing capacity to 167 and an all-brick Chapel to be added to the east wing was presented. At this time, a temporary Chapel was located in the basement of the Home. Total cost of these two undertakings was in the area of \$260,000.

On October 19, 1959, dedication services were held for the completion of the addition of the three stories to



This is the Iowa Lutheran Home for the Aged as it looks today. The Sanborn Chapel on the east end of the Home was officially dedicated June 10, 1962.

the west wing. The program was held in the temporary Chapel and the program was moderated by the Rev. Ruben Spong of Des Moines, Chairman of the Board of Directors. The address was given by Dr. Oscar Benson of Minneapolis, honorary president of the Augustana Lutheran Church. Honored guests were Governor and Mrs. Hershell Loveless of Des Moines.

In June of 1960, funds became available for the building of a much needed chapel facility at the Home. Bids were opened on August 2, and they were awarded as follows: General construction, Grabau Construction Co., Boone; plumbing and heating, Lint Plumbing and Heating of Grimes; and electric, Chuck's Electric of Boone. Total cost of the project was \$57,213.

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held on Saturday, August 12 with Mrs. Martha Sanborn, former matron doing the honors. It was on the following Monday that actual construction work began.

The chapel is 32 x 68 and is attached to the present building near the end of the east wing. It has a seating capacity of approximately 200. The chapel has been described as a dream by many residents for its design is suited for wheelchairs. It was used for the first time on Easter Sunday in 1962 and was dedicated in June. First floor residents can enter the chapel without climbing any stairs. No pews were placed on the second floor allowing wheel chair patients easy access in being seated there. Wide spacing was placed between pews allowing communion to be served to those seated.

The chapel became officially known as the Sanborn Chapel on June 10, 1962 in memory of Gust Sanborn, superintendent of the Home for 18 years. He died in Sweden while on a trip there in 1960.

The Gunder Co. of Humboldt made the pews for the structure. The stained glass windows came from Waukesha, Wisc. and tell the story of the church throughout the years by means of its window designs.

Gust Sanborn, superintendent of the Home for 18 years beginning in 1942, was born in Sweden on September 5, 1893 and attended school there through the college level. He studied business administration in Germany for three years before coming to the United States in 1924. His major area of study was in wholesale and retail grocery business and it was in this field that he took his first job in Buffalo and later Jamestown, New York.

He married Martha Kastman, a longtime friend from Sweden on July 25, 1926 who had also come to America seeking opportunity. She graduated as a nurse and deaconess and spent a number of years as a social worker in the Lutheran Church in Sweden. They lived in Jamestown after their marriage and were members of the Lutheran Church there.

Mr. Sanborn became superintendent of the Home in 1942 and excessive and extensive building programs were carried out under his guidance. The Sanborns retired from the Home on August 31, 1960 and just two days later, while on a trip in Sweden he passed away.

He is survived by his wife, Martha, one daughter, Mrs. John Lake and three grandchildren, a brother and sister and many friends and relatives.

He wrote for the Iowa Lutheran Home Messenger under the byline of "From the Superintendent's Desk" and he served on many Boards of Commission during his time. Among them include the Executive Council, Advance for Christ in Missions and Mercy, Board of Social Missions, and various boards of St. John's Lutheran and First Church in Jamestown.

Pastor Spong

Pastor and Mrs. Ruben Spong of Des Moines succeeded the Sanborns as head of the Lutheran Home.

Taking over in 1960, Rev. Spong served as administrator and chaplain while Mrs. Spong succeeded Mrs. Sanborn as matron at the home.

Pastor Spong served as minister at the Grand View Lutheran Church in Des Moines since March 1947 and before this, he served five years at the Augustana Lutheran Church in Boone after coming to the Iowa Conference in 1942.

Prior to coming to Iowa, Pastor Spong served churches in Dallas, Texas and Osage City, Kansas.

Mrs. Spong was the first president of the Iowa Lutheran Home Guild and served in this capacity for five years.

She later was president of the Iowa Conference Woman's Missionary Society for six years and also served both organizations as treasurer for a number of years.

The Spongs were officially installed into their new positions at the Home at a June 26, 1960 ceremony held on the Home lawn. Dr. Gerald K. Johnson of Chicago delivered the installation address and Pastor Raynold Lingwall, president of the Iowa Conference, conducted the installation service.

In May of 1963, Dr. J. L. Milton Nelson was named new administrator—chaplain of the Iowa Lutheran Home. He came to the Home with a wealth of experience. At that time he had been a pastor for 30 years and had been involved in Parish work, Institutional work and Administration.

He served as President of the Superior Conference from 1955-1963 and he served as Administrator—Chaplain at the Lutheran Home for the Aged in Marinette, Wisc. for six years beginning in 1957.

He was officially installed at his position on Sunday, June 30, 1963 with Dr. Raynold Lingwall delivering the rite of installation. Dr. Cedric W. Tilberg, secretary of the Board of Social Ministry, Lutheran Church in America was the guest speaker for the service. Also speaking at the event were J. Harold Peterson, a Board of Director of the Home and Mrs. Clemens Selander, Guild president.

Following Rev. Nelson's departure in July of 1968, the Home was without an administrator for nearly two months. But, in Sept. of 1968 Jerry A. McConnell took over the leadership of the Home until Sept. of 1970.

Prior to this McConnell worked in West Des Moines. McConnell, his wife, Loretta and their four sons lived in Madrid for several years before moving out to California.

At the present time McConnell is administrator at the Lutheran Home in Solvang, Calif.

Jerry was succeeded by Pastor Charles Terrell and he remains as Home Administrator today.

Before coming to Madrid Pastor Terrell served as administrator at the Des Moines Lutheran Home and later was appointed executive director of both.

His wife, June is a registered nurse and serves as director of nursing service at the Home for the Aged.

The Terrells have a son and daughter and two grandsons.

History of Lutheran Home Guild

The Iowa Lutheran Home Guild was organized on March 17, 1947 when Mrs. Gust Sanborn, then matron at the Home, invited a group of women to the Home with the purpose of discussing the possibility of organizing a guild or auxiliary among the women of the Iowa Conference to work in the interest of the Home.

Its specific purpose was to bring knowledge of the Home and its work as well as its needs, to the people of the Conference to work in the interest of the Home.

(Continued on next page)



This is how things looked on that cold January day in 1948. Damage and loss estimates totaled an estimated \$200,000 but none of the 65 residents were injured.