

A SAD, SAD YEAR

1904 brought good news and sad news which, as we all know, do most years. Part of the good news was that funds for the Manual Training building were appropriated by the Legislature to the tune of \$5,760. Building was begun in late August, 1903, however, much time was lost through the search for solid ground for the northeast corner of its foundation. A search for qualified brick layers added to the delay, thus the walls were not ready for the roof until the end of November (Too bad The Eder Project wasn't around then.) Cold weather threatened further delays, but perseverance won the day, as the building was finally enclosed in December. April 1904 saw the cement floors laid and the engine foundation put in. At last-success.

The old board fence in front of the Main Building literally fell under its own weight and had to be replaced. Cement posts, which were made on the grounds, and two rails of unused gas pipe comprised the fine new fence. A heavy retaining wall was built along the hill by the reservoir, and the road was widened considerably. Due to the lack of funds, it was possible to extend the fence only from the south side of the Home grounds to the middle gate. Funds were requested for finishing the work and were granted in 1905.

A cement and stone retaining wall was built along the south side of the lake, a pathway made on the terrace above, and the hillside graded and sodded, turning an unsightly lake bank into a beautiful spot which is even today enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Indiana's farsighted Governor Durbin recommended that a fruit tree orchard be planted on the Home grounds. Thus, some 400 fruit trees were planted north of the Hospital in November. In addition, 80 catalpa trees were set out about the grounds and 42 grape vines added to the vineyard. One can only speculate why the vineyard did not survive.....The Governor also suggested that strawberries be grown, but that project was not attempted. More's the pity.

1904 saw the permanent dissolution of Division 13 and its residents dispersed to other divisions. The year also saw a change in holders of many positions at our Home, chiefly among the teachers and governesses. Whatever caused the mass exodus? Surely not our angelic children.

Death was an unwelcome visitor in 1904; one disguise being Tuberculosis, which stayed longer than any other year. Another of Death's deadly disguises was Scarlet Fever, which claimed five children. Then, a young boy, thinking himself indestructible, tried to walk the iron railing up the hill west of the Power House. He fell onto an iron post and ruptured his liver, resulting in death a few days later. What a sad, sad ending to our young Home Kids.

Until next time.

Pat Smith Towne '54