

1979

A History of Service

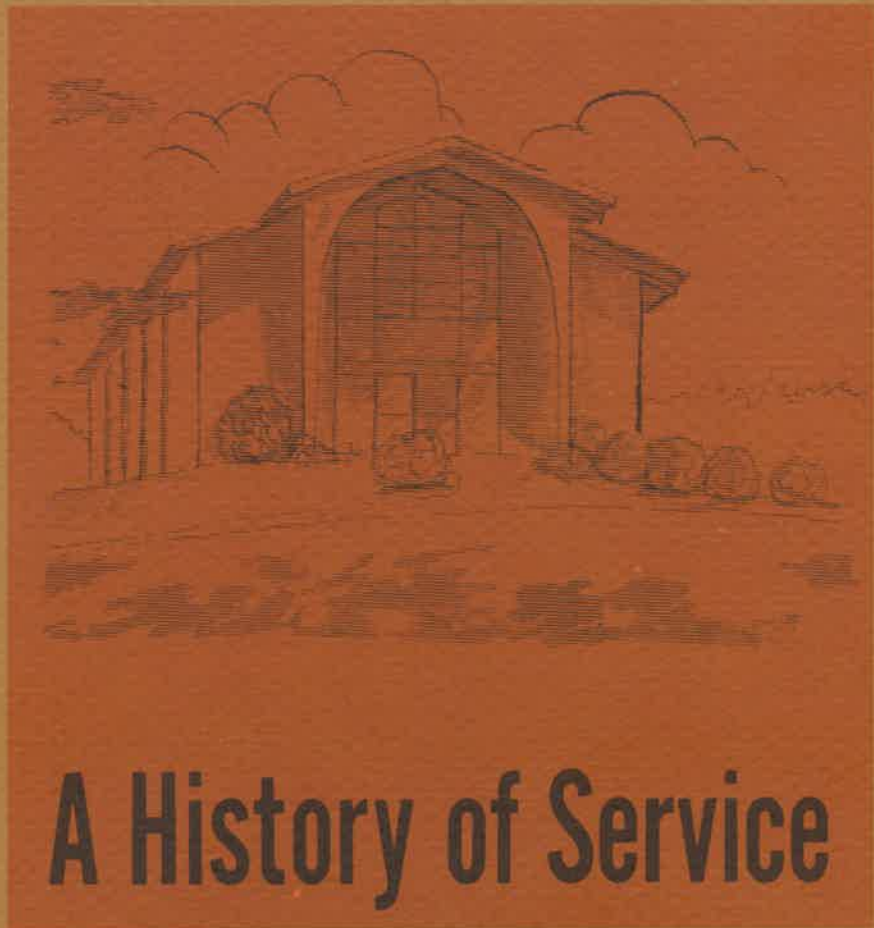
Little Creek Academy

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A History of Service

“**W**HERE, except at Little Creek, could a student plant the seed, harvest the grain, grind it into flour, bake bread, and eat it, doing all steps sometime during four years at school?” asks a former student. Where else might the school family make applesauce for one Saturday night entertainment and the next week attend a concert? Where else could young people find solid academic training plus a work program where teachers work beside them?

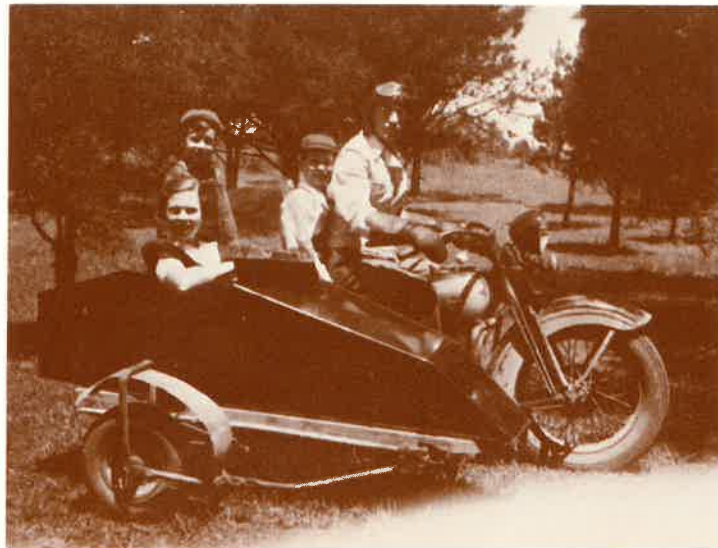
Such a school was started in 1940 when Alice and Leland Straw set out from Madison College in an old pick-up and trailer to take possession of a 187 acre farm near Knoxville, Tennessee. They were determined to see what the Lord would do for those who dedicated themselves to His service without concern for financial rewards.



The plan was simple. They would raise their own food as far as possible, construct simple buildings as funds were available and accept the experiences of each day as indications of Providence as to the course of the work.

Money was scarce; there was absolutely no regular income. But opportunities soon arrived. Neighbors wanted a school for their children which was begun in an abandoned church heated by a wood stove. Parents

were surprised when the children cried because a vacation period had arrived! Soon three orphans insisted on admittance for high school training, even though they would have to sleep partially under the Straws' two grand pianos. Thus school was launched with much misgiving, but high hopes.





ELEVEN people—adults, students and children—crowded into a small four room house that fall. Water was carried from a spring, and wood furnished the heat.

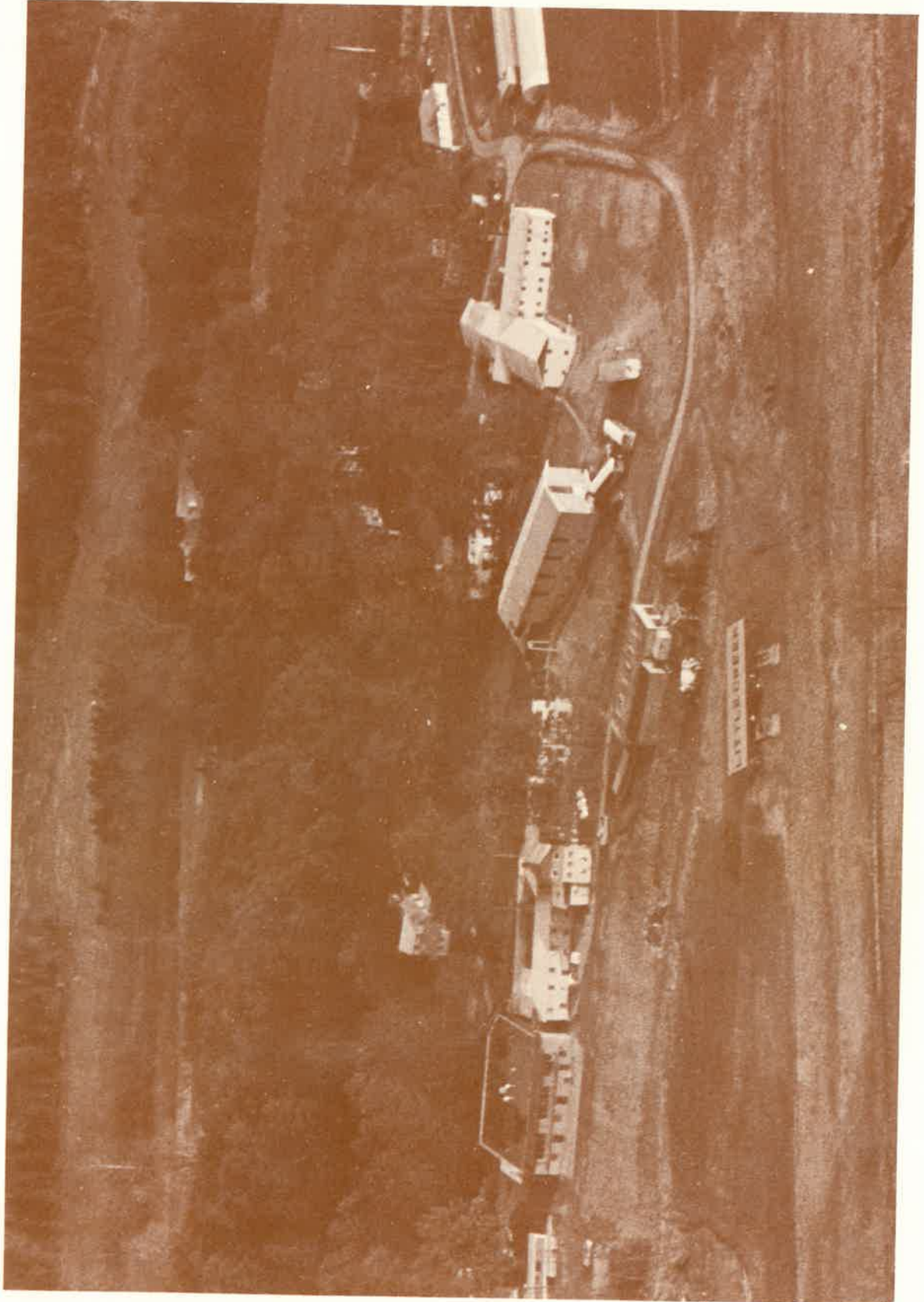
By January the first new building, a small log cabin, was completed. Next followed a

lean-to for the girls' dormitory and a second home.

In the spring of 1942 a four room health care unit stood on the crest of the hill. The equipment was only a tub and massage table while the kitchen was a curtained off corner of the treatment room.

Over the years more buildings were added until today the institution contains a twenty-five bed sanitarium, boarding facilities for sixty students, and a 350 acre farm and dairy.







ALWAYS the Christian plan for educating the heart, the mind and the hand has been the model for Little Creek. "Education for life, but not this life alone," is the motto that is put into practice as teachers and students work, study, and worship together. Every building has been built by students working

with teachers. A large portion of the needed food is produced and preserved.

All students work a portion of the day and their work is changed every semester to give them as wide experience as possible.

The school has striven to encourage a desire for excellence in intellectual training. The philosophy that a work program is an aid, not a detriment, to learning has been amply demonstrated. Many vocations and professions have been successfully pursued by graduates, and a high percentage continue training after graduation.





SOcial opportunities encourage group activities rather than early courtships which are often seen in this age of permissiveness. Musical organizations, picnics, and simple games are times to learn courteous deportment and Christian behaviour.



But the primary purpose for a school such as Little Creek is to cooperate with the Creator in the restoration of mankind as well as to encourage students to devote their

lives in service for others. A small student body makes possible many opportunities for each student to lead in religious services, give talks, tell stories to children, minister to the elderly, and serve in many other ways. Volunteer work in the community, cooking schools, singing bands, and other activities are carried out by students.

All this gives purpose to education, sharpens the intellect, strengthens the mind to see from cause to effect, and develops what is often called common sense.





The First Sanitarium

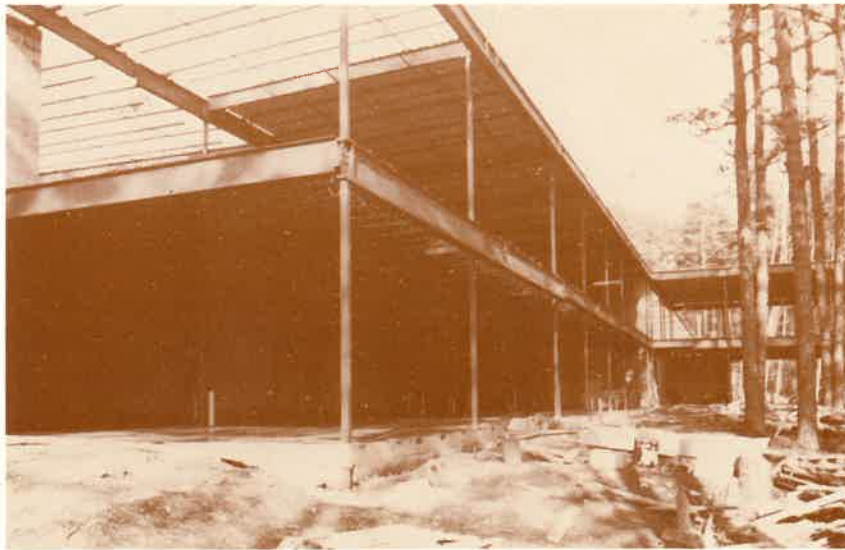
MEDICAL work is an integral part of Little Creek. Its skilled care facility for older citizens has gained a favorable reputation in the community and it has enjoyed 99% occupancy for many years without government aid.

The present sanitarium is now nearly thirty years old, and while it is solidly built, it no longer complies with government regulations. Therefore a new building has been started which will increase the total beds. It is also planned to add health education and conditioning in order to prevent, rather than just heal disease. Qualified doctors and nurses are presently employed to do this.



Present Sanitarium

AT no time have the workers at Little Creek used donations for operating expenses. Through economy of operation and limited contributions, many thousands of dollars have been invested in homes and buildings and additional farm land. The institution has always managed to operate because of the spirit and sacrifice of its workers.



Some say the day of miracles is past, but to those who have grown up with Little Creek School and Sanitarium, its very existence is evidence of God's providence at work.

Can this program continue? The question is very pressing at this time. The high interest rates and the ravages of inflation have created real problems. The building

is about half completed with \$250,000 from school earnings plus funds from friends, alumni, and patrons.



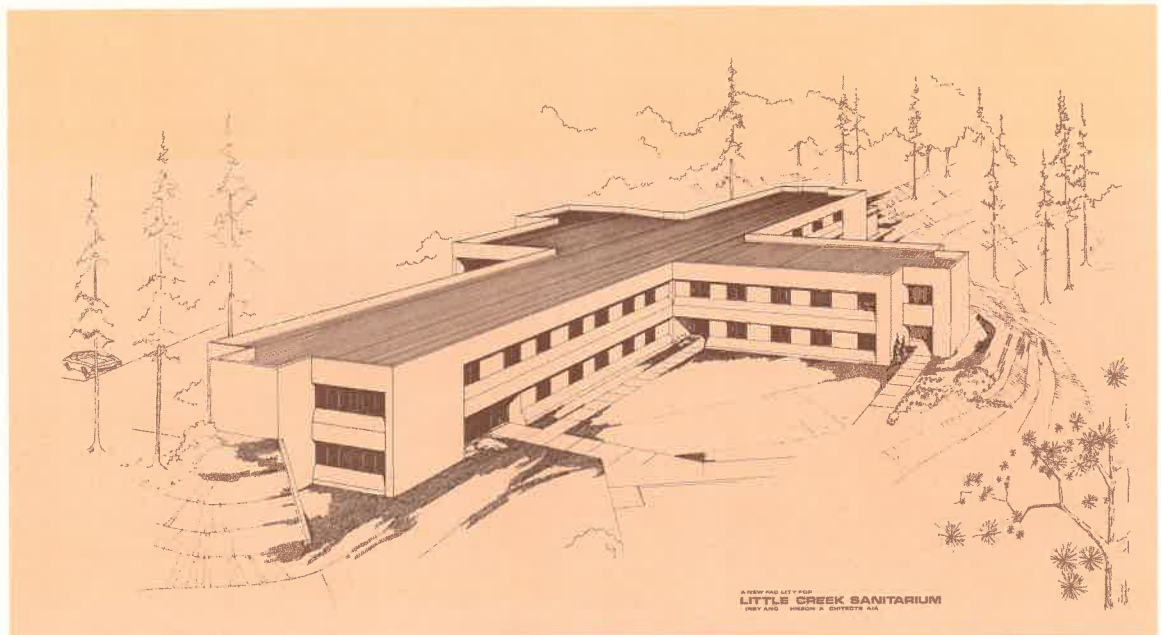
There is no way for the staff of Little Creek to provide all of the money needed to complete the building. It seems that the only satisfactory source of income is from those who believe that an investment in young people is the best investment possible.



“The very existence of Little Creek is at stake.” says Professor Straw.

Student tuition cannot pay the cost of education even in an environment of sacrificial service. It seemed in God’s plan to permit the operating gain of the health care program to make possible the educational work.

This has been the accepted plan which has brought Little Creek School where it is today. If the school is to continue, the health care program must support it. This project needs your help today.



LITTLE CREEK SCHOOL AND SANITARIUM, 1810 LITTLE CREEK LANE, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37922

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