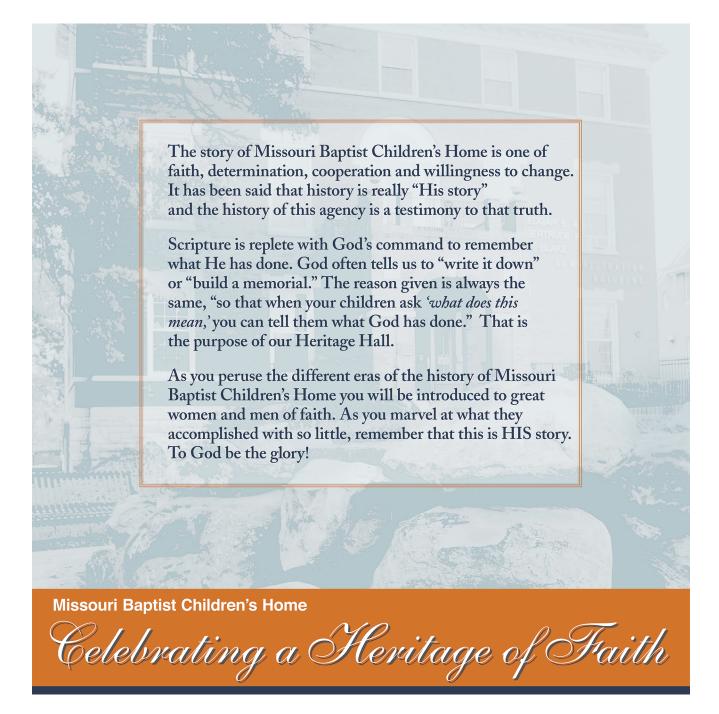


11300 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, Missouri 63044 800-264-6224 www.mbch.org "MBCH is committed to serving God by responding to the needs of children, youth and families to make a lasting difference in their lives."

## MISSOURI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME



A Brief History of Missouri Baptist Children's Home as Depicted by the Graphics of "Heritage Hall"



As part of the celebration of 130 years of "serving God by responding to the needs of children, youth and families," Missouri Baptist Children's Home has developed "Heritage Hall" on the first floor of the Blake Administration Building on the Lowe-Frillman Campus in Bridgeton. "Heritage Hall" tells the story of MBCH through a series of 42" x 65" museum-quality dimensional panels. While we welcome everyone to come to Bridgeton to view these panels, we understand that many will not be able to do so. This booklet contains a reduced version of those panels. We also have a series of pull-up banners representing the panels which will enable us to take a portable version of Heritage Hall to all areas of the State.

## WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Missouri Baptist Children's Home and its affiliates continue to respond to the needs of children, youth and families in Missouri. The ministries and services provided now are different than the ones from 100, 50 or even 10 years ago. The ministries and the locations in which those ministries are provided will probably continue to change as we move into the next chapter of this wonderful story.

But one thing will NOT change and that is our commitment to be a Christ-centered agency. While we are committed to providing care that meets or exceeds the best professional standards, we will only do so as we unapologetically share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all of the children and families in our care.

"As we face the challenges of this new day, let us be as determined as our forefathers to minister. Let us make our commitment to be here one hundred years from today doing what Jesus has commanded us to do if He tarries. If He does not tarry, then let our commitment be that when He comes, He will find us diligently at the task of caring for children.

As we look through the history, each of us surely feels the swelling pride of accomplishment in the service of those who have gone before us. May those who come after us look back on this century of caring with the same sense of pride that we now have in our Baptist forebears."

Dr. Raymond R. "Bob" Kenison

Missouri Baptist Children's Home

# The Story Continues

To God Be the Glory,

Great Things He Has Done
through the People and Ministries

Missouri Baptist Children's Home.

## THE NEXT ERA

When Raymond (Bob) Kenison assumed the role of Administrator (later changed to Executive Director and then to President) of the Home, he came from the position of Development Officer, which he had held for three years. He not only possessed a thorough understanding of the requirements of the position, but his statewide experiences afforded him a real overview of both the needs and assets of the Children's Home, causing him to be excited about charting new dreams.



DR. RAYMOND AND MRS. MARIORIE KENISON

## NEW VISION

In an early move Kenison formed a long range planning committee. This committee travelled to Baptist child care agencies in South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Oklahoma – prime examples of excellence in child care ministries – and reported back to the Board. This set a new direction for MBCH.

## HALLMARKS OF THE KENISON ADMINISTRATION

- Leadership Stability: Russell Martin and Robert Springate served alongside Kenison during entire administration
- Financial Stability
- Geographic and Ministry Expansion:
   5 campuses plus regional offices significantly broaden MBCH's impact, resulting in new and varied ministry programs.
- New corporate structure is established to form affiliates (MBCH Foundation, MBCH Children and Family Ministries, MBCH Properties, MBCH Professional Development Institute and The LIGHT House)



## 1980-2014

# The Kenison Years

## INFLUENCE BEYOND THE WALLS OF MBCH

Kenison's influence extended beyond his work at MBCH. As it became more apparent of the need to collaborate with other like-minded private agencies, MBCH was one of the founding agencies of the Missouri Alliance for Children and Families to provide care for children with severe emotional and behavioral needs. Kenison also served as president of the Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies, a group dedicated to protecting Missouri's children at risk.

Nationally, Kenison served as secretary of the board of the National Association of Homes for Services for Children (later became the Alliance for Children and Families) as well as President of the Baptist Child Care Executives.

## ORGANIZATION CHANGES STRUCTURE

With the forming of Professional Development Institute in 1997, a staff development organization, began an overall restructuring of the board culminating in 2001. Under the parent corporation, three other corporations were formed. This brought a new organizational stability to MBCH.



State social service tax credits became a major funding source during Kenison's years Full use was made of the award and sale of credits for the support of children.



## KENISON QUOTES

"I didn't sleep last night!"
Staff knew an idea was emerging!!

A real motivator of staff, "Just work half a day... and I don't care which 12 hours you work!"

## CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP

Missouri Baptists give of their time, talents and financial resources to care for children, youth and families through MBCH. Some of those ways through our history are:

Cooperative Program

• Birthday Offerings

• Estate Plans

• Prayer support

• "I Care Day"

• Rheubin L. South Missouri Missions Offering

• Strawberry Fest (and other fest /special events

Serving as Trustees

Volunteer service through construction projects, tutoring, making clothing, quilts, crafts, etc.

· Camp Sponsorships

• Individual Giving
• Church Budgets

 Providing Christmas presents, clothing, baby supplies, school supplies

Serving as foster and adoptive families

• Thanksgiving Offerings

## MISSOURI BAPTISTS

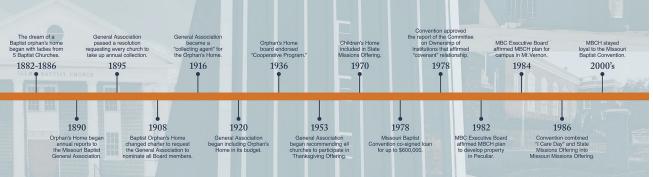
## HISTORICALLY BAPTIST

Missouri Baptist Children's Home was a product of St. Louis Baptist churches. As the ladies from 5 Baptist churches planned, pondered and "agitated" to create an Orphan's home, there was never any doubt that it would be a Baptist orphan's home and would be managed, supported and operated by Baptists. Throughout the years the bond between Missouri Baptist Children's Home and the Missouri Baptist churches has remained strong.

## MISSOURI BAPTISTS AND THE CHILDREN'S HOME

"Our children's Home is an integral part of the program of Missouri Baptists. It represents a phase of our ministry as a denomination that is essential. Nothing in Missouri Baptist life is closer to the hearts of our folk than the care of orphaned and homeless little folk."

Dr. T. W. Medearis, General Superintendent of Missouri Baptist State Convention, 1944



# Partners With Missouri Baptists

## BEST MANAGED BAPTIST ENTERPRISE

In 1923, Corresponding Secretary Alice K. Messerly wrote: "Our State paper, 'The Word and Way,' has this to say about the home: About the best

managed enterprise among Missouri Baptists is the Orphan's Home. This charity is so well managed and with such economy, our friends are delighted to contribute to its support."

### MINISTERING TOGETHER

"Missouri Baptists have long sought to serve God by ministering to children, youth and families. Nothing defines this cooperative effort more clearly than the work of Missouri Baptist Children's Home. As Missouri Baptists give through their churches to the Cooperative Program, the Missouri Missions Offering and other ways, they demonstrate, through their partnership with MBCH, the eternal value of each person created in the image of God and the need to experience the love of God through faith in Jesus Christ."

Dr. John Yeats, Executive Director, Missouri Baptist Convention, 2016

## BIRTHDAY OFFERING P

The Birthday Offering has been an historic partnership with Missouri Baptist Churches since 1891. Hundreds of churches have used MBCH birthday cards, banks, pencils and mugs to "extend a hand of love" to children and families.



## WE NEED EACH OTHER

"We can do so much more when we partner together. That is one reason we value the covenant relationship we have with the Missouri Baptist Convention. This relationship has been the foundation of our ministry to children, youth and families. We believe our strength as an agency comes from our unwavering commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to following His command to 'serve the least of these.' We greatly appreciate the faithfulness of Missouri Baptists in supporting the ministries of Missouri Baptist Children's Home through prayers and contributions. It takes all of us joining hands together under the leadership and Lordship of our Savior to make a lasting difference in the lives of children, youth and families. May He receive all the honor and glory."

Russell L. Martin, President, Missouri Baptist Children's Home, 2014—.

## THE STORY BEGINS 🕨

In 1882 Mrs. Joseph B. Thompson dreamed the dream of beginning a St. Louis home for orphaned children. Together with Mrs. William Page, they embarked on a four year journey to see the dream realized. Little did they then know the impact they would have on children's lives for years to come.



In December of 1882 the first festival was held to sell "fancy goods" to raise money for the Home. Mrs. Page announced two quilts were sold for \$5.00 each. A total of \$2,077.31 was raised. Through investment and further gifts, the Home's account grew to \$2,742.78 by January, 1884.



MRS. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON

## FOUNDING COMMITTEE

Founding committee composed of ladies from five St. Louis churches:

- Second Baptist
- Third Baptist
- Fourth Baptist • Garrison Ävenue Baptist
- Park Avenue Baptist

## MEETINGS & MORE MEETINGS

The minutes of almost every meeting show that "Shall we go on, or shall we wait for larger means?" was the one question which engaged the greater part of the discussion.



## 1882-1886

## The Dream



### FROM THE MEETING MINUTES

The ladies were ready to open the home, but given the social climate of the day, they needed a male figure to serve as administrator. As recorded in the meeting minutes, that figure, Rev. Higgs, was introduced to the group.

"The president requested Dr. Boyd to state the object of the meeting which he did in a very happy manner, putting to flight any doubts as to the immediate necessity of work in caring for the little waifs of our city. A general discussion and expression of opinion was called for - during which Rev. Mr. Higgs came in and was presented to the ladies'

Excerpt from "The Little Ones" - The history of The Missouri Baptist Child

### THE HOME OPENS

And so, in April, 1886 the Baptist Orphan's Home opened its doors, at 2651 Morgan Street (pictured in this panel background) housing and giving care to five orphans. Mrs. Thompson's dream became a reality.





## THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM

When Dr. Blake retired everything seemed to be progressing smoothly. True, the campus was aging and needed much work. True, there were methods of modern child care which needed to be implemented here. But the Home was out of debt and had an income sufficient to meet its needs. Perhaps things were too calm. Perhaps this was simply the calm before the storm.



## NEW LEADER AT THE HELM

With Dr. Blake's retirement, the Board of Managers began to look for a new Administrator who would inaugurate new programs to keep up with a changing world. They wanted a man who was capable of dreaming exciting dreams. Howard Meyer seemed to be such a man.

## CHRISTIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL AND FAMILY SERVICES

In April 1975 the Board approved a plan for a statewide system of counseling services to be administered through the Home. The goal was to develop a " family-oriented preventive outreach program ... providing professional Christian counseling, education and training services to the families and children of churches and communities in Missouri." The CPFS grew rapidly from a one-member staff to 8 professional counselor-administrators who supervised 42 part-time counselors in 13 different centers across the state (St. Louis, Kansas City, Joplin, Springfield, Hannibal, Kirksville, St. Joseph, Bolivar, Rolla, Columbia, Jefferson City, High Ridge and Belleville, Illinois).

Howard Meyer	Christian Psychological	Russell Martin	Day Care and	Missouri Baptist	
hired as	and Family Services	hired as	15 staff positions	Convention co-signed	
Administrator.	(CPFS) began operation.	Business Manager.	are eliminated.	loan for up to \$600,000.	
January 1975	Autumn 1975	June 1977	May 1978	1978	

January 1978



October 1978

December 1978

October 1979

THE GAZEBO WAS ONE OF THE

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE 1970'S

CAMPUS EXPANSION

The growth in staff quickly produced

a need for campus expansion. In 1977 the Home purchased an abandoned

dormitory of the defunct Midwestern

was to raze that building and salvaged

materials would be used to build two

apartment buildings on the Bridgeton

the Board as a good idea, the apartment

October 1979

campus. While initially endorsed by

buildings were never constructed and

a return on the investment of nearly

\$320,000 was never realized.

College in Denison, Iowa. The plan

Summer 1980

Summer 1980

1974-1980

1976-1977

# Years of Turmoil

September 1978

## SCOPE OF CPFS

April 1975

The 1977 MBCH Annual Report published a map showing the locations and staffing of the CPFS.



### MINISTRY STILL PROVIDED

In spite of the financial difficulties of the day, the Home continued to provide residential care, group home care, foster home care, adoptive care, unmarried mother services, day care and counseling services.

## FINANCIAL TURMOIL

The costs associated with the Christian Psychological and Family Services program and campus expansion could possibly have been overcome, although at the cost of depleting reserves. A third problem arose, however, that added to the financial burden. The boiler system which provided heat for all the buildings on the campus needed to be completely replaced. The financial strain took its toll. Howard Meyer resigned in September of 1978 and the Home had to ask the Missouri Baptist Convention to co-sign a loan for up to \$600,000 so bills and other debts could be paid. Budget cuts resulted in staff reduction and the elimination of some programs.

## A NEW LEADER EMERGES

The years between 1974 and 1980 were some of the most difficult in the history of the Children's Home. God, however, was already raising up the next generation of leadership. Russell Martin and Bob Kenison had already been added to the staff as Business Manager and Development Officer. When a second Administrator (Allen Harrelson) resigned after less than a year, the Board did not want to enter another long search for an Administrator and Kenison was unanimously elected as Interim Administrator and a few months later the position became permanent. The team of Kenison and Martin was to usher MBCH into the greatest days of the agency's history.

## Minutes approving Blake as Superintendent

Mar Trade by Mar Orddord, secondal by Mar Trade that he join Clark California Cape. Mar Jones Hark California Cape. Maracheng Joseph & y b. rape 47) be admitted into the More Million Capendary accorded by Mar Orddord, secondal by Rev Chice to adhirt 2 you tal. Million Capital.

## CHANGE OF APPROACH

Edgar Blake, coming from a school administrative position, was accustomed to boards and also to making "on-the-spot" decisions. In his new position he intended to cooperate with the Board, but also to be a decisive leader.

Blake immediately began the long process of changing Missouri Baptist Children's Home from a child's warehouse to an individual treatment center. First, he eliminated the large dormitory, putting children into cottages. Each cottage had smaller numbers of children, allowing for an environment resembling a home like atmosphere.



DR. EDGAR AND MRS. GERTRUDE BLAKE

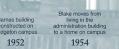
Superintendent on January 1, 1945

## NEW LEADERSHIP

Edgar E. Blake became the new fully prepared to face the

1949

challenges lying ahead.







1957





1960





1967

1966

BEQUEATH OF AN ESTATE 🖟

In 1968 board member and long time

of the Groff Campus was sold in 2001.

supporter, Spencer Groff, left his estate to the

the estate accounted for approximately 12% of the Home's annual budget. The final piece

1968

home. A foundation continued to hold title,

but profits earned from the management of

## 1973

1972

# The Blake Years

### WORKING WITH THE BOARD

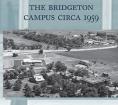
BERREGAR

Blake's advancing the Children's Home's mission had to begin with small steps and decision making leadership had to be employed. Here's a quote from Dr. Blake in those early years:

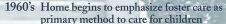
"On one occasion I had the maintenance man rebuild a closet in one of the boys' dorms. It was an old-fashioned closet, not deep enough to get a normal coat hanger in it, so I had it enlarged. Our own man did the work, and it didn't cost anything, but the Board didn't like it because I didn't wait and come to them for permission.

However, another occasion the Board did make an effort to give permission for an improvement before Blake made it. The minutes reflect that the Board voted to allow Mr. Blake to have the old stump removed on the lawn.

Excernt from "The Little Ones" - The history of The Missouri Bantist Children's Home



1950's Social work expands. A great change occurred in 1951 when the State Department of Public Health and Welfare recognized the Home as a Child Caring Institution and gave it the new rating of Child Placing Agency. This allowed the Board to extend the Home's service by setting up an authorized program of foster home care for babies under the age of two.



1970's Daycare opens in the Barnes Building as a model center. Child care could now be summed as follows: Institutional Care, Group Home Care, Foster Home Care, Adoptive Home Care, Unmarried Mother Services, Day-care Service, and Counseling Services.



DR. EDGAR E. BLAKE
ADMINISTRATOR
MISSOURI
BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME
1944-1974

## PROGRESS THROUGH THE DECADES

primary method to care for children

## REALITY

On April 1, 1886, the rented house at 2651 Morgan Street was comfortably furnished and opened to receive five infants who prior to that time had been under the protection of the Educational Aid Society. The dream had become a reality.

## EARLY HEALTH PROBLEMS

Many of the admitted infants were either weak or actually ill. Often the baby was born with some illness or malformity. Sometimes the babies from such circumstances did not live long enough to reach the Orphan's Home. When they did, they were susceptible to every contagious disease which swept the city. The babies died from many causes, but whether the death record stated the cause as "inanition" or "meningitis," most of them simply wasted away and died. During the first six months of operation, twenty-six infants were lost.

Circumstances improved over the next few years. The 1894 Annual Report listed but six deaths. "The health of the children has been remarkably good, the percentage of deaths very small."



MRS. J. S. EMILY DUNHAM

### CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

With the death of Mrs. R. J. Hill in 1886, the actual Board role of leadership fell to Emily Dunham, "a carefully precise woman in the midst of vigorous middle age." She continued to serve as President until her death in 1895 and was a vital part of the early success of the Home.

Rented house at lorgan Street opened scerve five infants.	Mrs. J.S. "Emily" Dunham elected Association President.	Purchased Edgerton Property at 1906 Lafayette Street for permanent home. May 1887	House enlarged to care for up to 75 children.	Baptist Orphan's I became auxiliary to General Associa 1891	Home Fund b Baptist from tion. "Em	al Endowment egan with gift Lucy May ily" Bower. 1892	Emily Dunham passed away.	Moved back into completely refurbished house.  August 1896	9.
1886 Mrs. P. J. H First Presid passed aw	Hill, Home increasent, its capacity to	ased First Thanks care Offering tal	sgiving Al Al de	1890 Il current abt paid.	May 1892 First Strawberry Festival Held.	January 189 "Mite Club" Organized.	5 May 27, 1 Cyclone h St.Louis, sew damaged ho	nit erely	7

# Realizing the Dream

## FINANCIAL DISASTER

While the Home was managed by women during its early history, they did feel the need for male advice when it came to investing their money. They chose an Advisory Committee which consisted of three men: Joseph B. Thompson, Thomas West and William Senter. Within the first three months of existence, the bank in which funds were deposited closed its doors. The bank failure made the Home's operation dependent upon collections solicited by the managers.



EARLY PHOTO SHOWS BOARD OF MANAGERS ON THE PORCH OF

### STATISTICAL REPORT

During the Baptist Orphan's Home first nine years:

- 821 children were received
- 97 were placed in homes by adoption
- \$27,876 were spent on operation of the Home

## STRONG FOUNDATION LAID

"The years between 1886-1896 were years of struggle but highly successful. Dedicated Board members and competent Matrons set a pattern for succeeding years. It had taken them long enough to get the doors opened, and they would never see them closed." Excerpt from "The Little Ones" - the history of The Missouri Baptist Children's Home.

## A PERIOD OF GROWTH AND RELOCATION

The years from 1887 to 1929 were difficult and challenging, but the women who administered the Home were up to the task. Picking up from the devastating cyclone, they restored order to the house and served an average of 60 children. By the early 1900s, however, they realized that the house on Lafavette Street was no longer adequate and made plans to move the Home from the city to the

## MOVE TO PATTONVILLE

In the decisive summer of 1905, the Board of Managers purchased fifteen acres next to the old Fee Fee Baptist Church in Pattonville (now called "Bridgeton.") In order to situate the buildings more comfortably, the church gave the Home 125 feet of land on the South side of the church. Having sold the Lafayette Street house, the move to Pattonville required a temporary stay in a rented house until the cottages were completed. Friends of the Home were very generous in donating the original four cottages. Originally the Board of Managers intended to wait to

build the administration building until the money was in hand, but need prevailed and they borrowed the money, feeling certain they would have no trouble in repaying it. In 1916 they were able to burn the mortgage. The annual report of 1907 states: "We have changed our location from the city

to the country and have altered our scheme of

living to suit the varied conditions.'

1904

Late 1800s





EARLIEST CARDS SENT MARCH 8, 1928.



RAY SLAUGHTER



MRS, AGNES COUDY EILERS

### CONSISTENT LEADERSHIP

Upon the death of Emily Dunham, Mrs. Agnes Coudy Eilers was elected as Board President, a position she held until her death in 1933. She overlooked no opportunity to strengthen the financial standing of the Home, and on her winter trips to a kinder climate, she would travel many miles out of her way to interview a prospective friend and benefactor of







1898 October 1906

1905

October 1906

1897-1929

# High Tide of Prosperity

## FUNDRAISING |

A new campus and a growing population made fundraising a necessity. Several methods of fundraising were used, some more successful than others, but all worked to provide the capital required. By 1929 the Home was financially secure. In addition to the traditional Strawberry Festival, Thanksgiving Offering, Birthday Offering, Mite Club, etc., innovative methods were also used. For example on November 22, 1913, an entertaining bazaar was held in the chapel of Second Baptist Church. More than 1,000 dolls, dozens of doll houses, clothes and other doll paraphernalia were for sale. This event netted a profit of \$2,321.32!

## FIRST FULL TIME MALE ADMINISTRATOR

In the early 1900s, Dr. Milford Riggs, a pastor who had long been interested in the welfare of orphans worked on his own to make the needs of the Orphan's Home known across the State. He had a strong conviction that if only the word could be spread, more support would be forthcoming. In 1905, Dr. Riggs began to spend as much time as possible in a voluntary capacity. His work was so effective that in 1907 the managers prevailed on him to become a full-time speaker for the Home and he was employed as "Financial Agent" in 1908. His title was changed to "Superintendent and Financial Agent," becoming the Home's first full-time fundraiser.

## MAKING A LASTING DIFFERENCE

"We feel grateful for the fact that [our children] are, for the most part, spiritually minded. They receive their spiritual training through the Fee Fee Baptist Church located [adjacent] to the Home grounds, where they attend regularly. When our children reach the age of accountability, they are led to accept Jesus as their personal Savior, and become good stewards in the vineyard of their Master, serving Him through the various organizations of the Church. Excerpt from the "Golden Anniversary Commen rative Publication

### RULES

RECEIVING CHILDREN INTO THE

Baptist + Orphans' + Home,

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Boys under seven years, and girls under twelve, will be receive

1.—They must be: (1), a resident of the State; (2), Protant; (3), full or half orphan.

3.-If a child is given to the Home, a legal paper must be ex

o.—If a clinic is given to the frome, a legal paper must be ex-cuted by parent or guardian giving the Home absolute control of , and promising not to interfere in any way with its future. 4 .- If a child be not given to the Home, a monthly payment

ording to the ability of parent or guardian, is required, which

5.—Every one putting a child in the Home, not giving it up for Adoption, must sign a paper promising that in case they do not appear for three months and pay its board as agreed upon, or show sufficient cause for failure, the child shall belong absolutely to the lome the same as if given up for Adoption.

## HOME'S FINANCES HURT BY GREAT DEPRESSION

The fourteen years from 1930 to 1944 were trying years. Whereas the 1920's had been times of success and prosperity, the realities of the Great Depression greatly impacted the Home. Because of hard times, incoming funds began to trickle to almost nothing in 1932; obviously some steps had to be taken.

## 🕯 SUPERINTENDENTS BEGIN TO TAKE AUTHORITY FOR DECISION MAKING 📴

Since its inception, the Board kept full authority for making all of the decisions about the Home. Rev. Sam Mayo was hired in 1935 as Superintendent. He was the first man hired who actually took authority for making decisions. No one had ever questioned going to the Board for all decisions. The result was a running battle with the Board. The matter came to a head in 1936 when Mayo resigned. With the vacancy in the office of Superintendent, it was decided to place a phrase in the bylaws which would make the duties more specific. The phrase itself is so ambiguous that it is difficult to understand just what the ladies felt it would accomplish. It stated that "For the purpose of carrying out the plans and policies of the Missouri Baptist Orphans Home there shall be elected a Superintendent whose duty it shall be to superintend the work of the Home."



## MEN ALLOWED ON BOARD

In 1937, the all female Board of Managers took the most drastic step they could imagine to change the Orphan's Homethey changed their constitution to allow men on the Board! In 1937, fourteen men took their places on the Board of the Baptist Orphan's Home. Immediately, they began making changes, guiding the affairs of business and taking the necessary steps to pull the finances of the Home together.



## FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Economic times and changing leadership did not hamper the celebration of the Home's 50th Anniversary in 1936. A special publication recounted the history.



## 1930-1944

# Years of Trouble and Change



BANK USED
TO RAISE FUNDS

### NAME CHANGED

After operating as "The Baptist Orphan's Home" since 1886, changing times brought about a name change. The 1941 Annual Report includes a brief statement: "The name of our institution has been changed to the MISSOURI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME, which is in keeping with the kind of service we are endeavoring to render to helpless, homeless children." That is the only printed statement about the name change.

## THE MESSENGER

In order to distribute the message of the Home's needs and programs, a "temporary" monthly newsletter was begun. In August 1937, the first issue of "The Messenger" was produced. Some of the more interesting facts concerned the amount of food consumed at each meal: twenty loaves of bread, ten gallons of milk and eighteen quarts of fruit. The article also explained that the preparation of the food, the cleanup after the meal and the yard work were all done with a great deal of help from the children. The column which appeared in this first issue and which continued in each issue of the newsletter was the "Needs" column. In this column requests for clothes of certain sizes appeared (golf socks sizes 8-10, union suits sizes 6-10 years, bloomers or panties sizes 6-16 years, print dresses sizes 0-16 years). Toiletries listed were soap, powder, toothpaste and combs. Even a list of groceries appeared. This "temporary" newsletter has become a permanent fixture of the Home.



## TRANSITION YEARS 🛭

"These fourteen years from 1930 to 1944 were a time of transition for the Home. Many changes occurred, changes which brought the operation into the modern age in many respects. The past held a rich legacy, an inheritance of love, concern and sacrificial personal giving both of time and money. That tradition was enlarged upon during the next thirty years. Many people deserve credit for this, but one man's name overshadows that time: Edgar E. Blake." Excerpt from "The Little Ones" - the history of The Missouri Baptist Children's H