

Thursday
January 15, 1959



Hattie B. Munroe Home Director Frieda Dieterichs (left) and her assistant Mrs. C. D. Sittler recall past activities at the Home via a scrapbook. —SUN Photo.

Hattie B. Munroe Home Moves To Children's Medical Center

For 36 years the excited voices of children learning and playing have echoed through the halls of the red brick home at 2824 N. 66th ave., but after Jan. 31, the two story structure will be quiet.

That's the day the Hattie B. Munroe Home will move to a new building in the Children's Medical

Center at 4420 Dewey ave. Professional movers will take the bulk of the equipment to the new location and the children will be transported and cared for during the operation by the women of the board of the Orthopedic Association of Omaha.

Moving is over two weeks away, but Miss Frieda Dieterichs, director for the home for 12 years, was packing "things you like to move yourself" this week. "The Downtown Kiwanis provide us with a station wagon, so I'll be taking some of the smaller articles such as books and linens to our new home right along," said Miss Dieterichs.

"We will be able to take care of more children more efficiently in our new location because we will be closer to all types of medical facilities. We have been handicapped by isolation here, but we will miss our beautiful yard and friendly neighbors," she said.

"This has been our home for a long time. It's been pleasant and handy and it isn't easy to leave our friends in Benson. In the truest sense of the word they have been good neighbors and we will never forget the hundreds of helping hands extended to us in a wonderful spirit of neighborliness," she said.

The original Hattie B. Munroe home was built for the free use of convalescing crippled children by retired railroad official John A. Munroe in memory of his wife in 1922. It opened with 12 children as patients and now serves between 25 and 30 youngsters a day.

The Society for the Relief of the
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Disabled operated the home with the Visiting Nurses association supervising the nursing and treatment program. In 1923 the Society joined the newly organized Community Chest and also changed its name to the Orthopedic Association of Omaha. The OAO operates and manages the home.

The Home provided accommodations for 30 children ranging from two to 12 years of age. The new Home will be able to extend its services to teenagers.

The structure at 2824 N. 66th ave. will be used as a home for the aged.

At the new building the convalescing home will offer 24-hour care and serve as the nursing unit of the center. Although the home has operated its own school in the past, the children will attend the Dr. J. P. Lord school in the Center after Jan. 31.

Director Dieterichs is a registered nurse and has experience in hospital administration.