1844-1994



Our Medical Heritage





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2

Section 1

The History of the Lancaster City & County Medical Society



Heart Haven

Heart Haven was started in 1950 by the Lancaster Heart Association for the care of children with heart disease, especially rheumatic heart disease. Doctors were assigned to care for these patients on a rotation basis. Children with rheumatic fever, after the acute phase had subsided, were admitted for chronic care. School was arranged for the children in small groups and individually. The sedimentation rate was the yardstick of activity of rheumatic fever and children were kept at rest until this result had returned to normal and all physical signs of disease activity had subsided. Heart Haven was under the direction of Dr. J. Howard Esbenshade and the head nurse was Mrs. Kathryn Hawk, who lived there. Dr. Esbenshade and Paul Murray had been the promoters of Heart Haven. During its 18 years of operation it had provided free services to a majority of its patients.