

## State Report Given On Kosciusko County Home

The following is a report of an inspection of the Kosciusko County Home, R2, Warsaw, Ind., made for the State Department of Public Welfare on Nov. 1, 1949, by Russell E. Goodrich, Institutional Inspector. Mr. Goodrich was accompanied by Walter J. Koher, Superintendent.

### Personnel

Walter J. Koher is the superintendent of the Kosciusko County Home, and his wife, Mrs. Faye Koher, is the matron. Mr. and Mrs. Koher have been in these positions since Oct. 1, 1949. They are assisted by a staff of five paid employees. In this list are three cooks and two farm hands. Resident and Patient Population

Total population of the Home on the inspection date was forty-one. This number included twenty-three men and eighteen women. Three women were reported as custodial type cases. There were also three women requiring sick room care. Two of these women were patients in the county hospital. Ambulant residents numbered thirty-five. In this number were twenty-three men and twelve women. The superintendent reported thirty-three residents—eighteen men and fifteen women—to be sixty-five or more years old. Commissioners of the county have fixed \$7.50 as the weekly charge to be made for care and maintenance of residents in the Home. Six pay this sum from their own resources, and one pays part of this amount. There are twenty-four residents who receive old-age assistance.

One also receives blind assistance.

### Health, Medical And Nursing Care

A physician is appointed by county commissioners to attend medical needs of residents in the County Home. This physician visits the Home once each week and also responds to all calls made by the superintendent. Between visits by the physician medical treatment is in charge of the superintendent and matron. The superintendent said that medical examinations are not given in all cases to residents when they are admitted. The medical certificate forming a part of the application for admission is accepted. Residents requiring hospital care are taken either to the McDonald hospital or the Murphy Medical Center in Warsaw. Drug supplies and prescriptions are stored in a drug room which is on the first floor of the building and in the women's part of the Home. First aid supplies are available.

**Cleanliness**  
Residents and patients in this Home appeared to be receiving good care. They appeared to be in a cheerful mood. Residents are required to bathe when admitted and at least once each week. Kitchen and kitchen equip-

ment were clean and in good condition. Sleeping rooms were clean and appeared well-kept. Toilet and bath rooms meet a reasonable standard of cleanliness. The matron reported one sanitary mattress is in use with standard mattresses on all other beds. The laundry, located east of the kitchen, is equipped with two-cylinder washing machines, a small electric washing machine, an extractor and two mangles. A dryer should be added to the equipment.

### Food Service And Food Sanitation

Planning and preparation of meals are responsibilities of the matron and cooks. When ordered by the physician, special diets are prepared. On the inspection date breakfast served in the Home consisted of a cereal, French toast, syrup, butter, milk and coffee. The noon meal included pork chops, spinach, scalloped potatoes, apple butter, rhubarb, bread, coffee and milk. In the evening residents were served food left from the noon meal, together with fried potatoes, bread, butter, coffee and milk. The matron said that residents are given all the milk they desire and that butter is served twice daily. She stated that fresh meat is included in the menu on an average of three days weekly and that cold meats are usually served on Sunday evening. Eggs are served frequently, she said. The matron also stated that breakfast menus include either pancakes or French toast.

Natural lighting and ventilation in the resident kitchen are good. This kitchen is in the east section of the main building. The kitchen floor, which is constructed of concrete, is in need of repair in several places. Kitchen equipment includes a work table with linoleum covered top, several storage cabinets and two double compartment sinks. There is a ventilating hood above the bottled gas range. This stove was reported to be in good condition. Refrigeration is electric and was in good condition. Space is also used in a commercial locker plant at Warsaw. Hot and cold running water is provided in the kitchen. Water is heated by an automatic oil heater. Separate dining rooms are maintained for male and female residents. These rooms are west of the kitchen, and both have good natural light and ventilation.

### Community Life

The superintendent said that there are ten men and six women among the Home residents who are available to be of some assistance in performing light tasks. The men work on the farm, in the yard and garden, fill the stokers, attend the poultry, sweep the barn, carry vegetables, and perform other light chores. The women help dry dishes, work in the dining room and assist in caring for women who are ill. Some of the women are able to do sewing and crocheting.

### Agriculture—County Farm

The Kosciusko County Farm comprises one hundred fifty-seven acres. Approximately one hundred eight acres are used for farm crops and two acres for garden. The remainder is in pasture and building sites. Livestock includes ten milch cows, eleven other head of cattle, twenty-three hogs and three hundred chickens. Farm buildings are a barn, hog house, two implement sheds, garage and two poultry houses. All are a frame construction and in good condition. Farm equipment was described as being adequate and in good condition. Fences are fair.

### Comment

Some improvements have been made recently at the Home. Included are rewiring the second floor of the building, placing a hot water heater in the laundry and installing a new electric refrigerator in the superintendent's kitchen. The superintendent said there has been discussion of plans for installing a dishwashing machine in the Home.

The Sanitary recommendations made by the Indiana State Board of Health with comment on each, are:

1. The dumping area in the rear of the Home should be covered with eighteen inches of well compacted earth to eliminate rat harborage and mosquito breeding. (It was stated that this dump is in process of being covered with cinders and that no additional material is being placed in this dump.)

2. All milk served should be from a properly pasteurized source or if served raw, must be from a herd accredited free from tuberculosis and Bang's disease.

The milk from the Home's herd may be served raw in the Home while the herd is being accredited, provided the initial tests are negative. (Milk for the Home is now purchased from a Warsaw dairy.)

The foregoing report was prepared by Russell E. Goodrich, Institutional Inspector.

3. That compliance be given to recommendations made by the Indiana State Board of Health.

4. That kitchen flooring be repaired.

5. That needed repairs be made to floors in women's bathrooms.

6. That consideration be given to employment of additional competent female help in the Home to insure necessary nursing care when required by residents.

7. That fire extinguishers be checked, tagged and dated.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren L. Edwards,  
Supervisor of Inspections.

Rev. and Mrs. Carl Sorenson  
will attend an A.A. Banquet in  
the Purdue Building, Fort  
Wayne.

17th day of November, 1949.

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Clerk Kosciusko Circuit Court.

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(Kendallville)

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