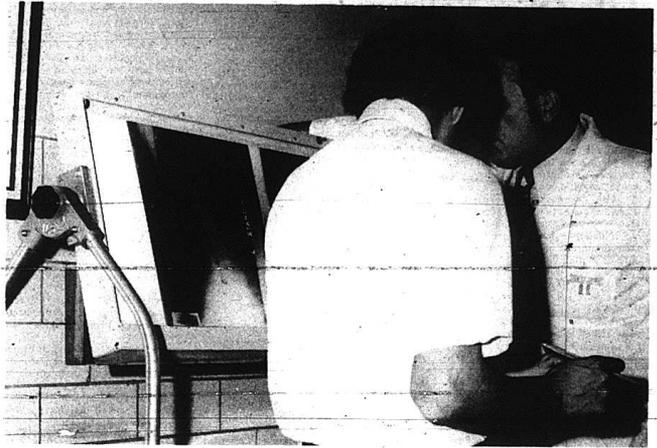


# Shriners Donate Millions To Child Welfare



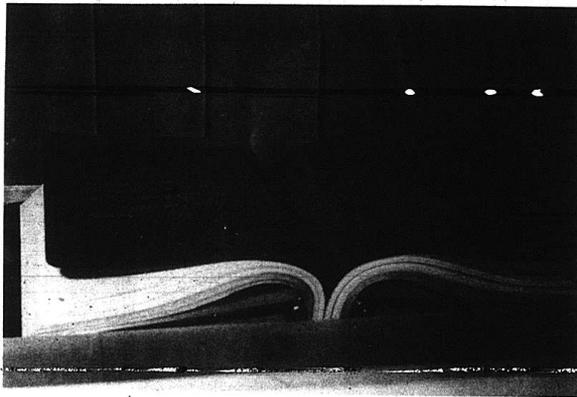
THE ORIGINAL Lexington Shriner hospital was abandoned in 1955 for the present 1900 Richmond Rd. site. A holly tree from that hospital's lawn was transplanted to the new location as a reminder of Shriner service to thousands of children.



THERE ARE 11 active staff doctors at the Lexington facility, and 33 consultants who can be called in if needed. At the Cincinnati burn center, there are nine staff doctors and 20 consultant doctors.

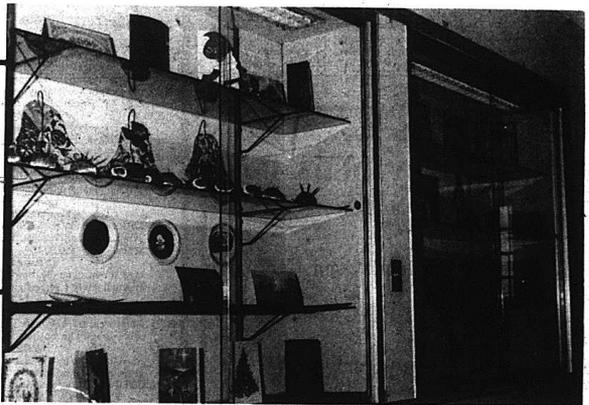


ADOLPH RUPP, chairman of the board of this particular hospital, said in-patients spend Christmases at home, returning for treatment in January. A vending man in the hospital lobby said he was going home to take his tree down, because he'd "... never seen one as pretty as that."



NUMEROUS PLAQUES found in other hospitals are not to be seen in Shriner hospitals. A "Book of Gold" records the names of persons who make legacies, bequests and gifts in their wills to the hospitals. The left page reads, "In this Book of Gold are recorded the names of those who have been mercifully mindful of little children who needed help. For them we pray God's blessings." On the right page — "Dedicated to those who have aided our work."

ADMINISTRATOR SPRADLIN said the staff makes an effort to exhibit any work the patients do. While at the hospital, kids attend school so they will not be behind when they return to public school. Education TV is used a lot, she said, and the students put on two plays each year. The Shriners provide the youngsters with numerous toys and games, and make available recreation and opportunities for exercise.



### Hospital Costs Rising

As are all hospitals, the Shrine facilities are experiencing the increased costs of equipment, utilities and manpower. The Shrine budgets about \$34 million a year to operate its 22 centers. Per patient costs in the Orthopedic units last year averaged \$2,200. The average length of stay was 34 days.

For acute burns patients the average length of stay was 40 days, with costs coming to about \$375 a day.

In the last 55 years, about \$325.4 million has been spent for hospital operation, but the return of the children to society is the Shrine's first concern.

### Area Support

Central and Eastern Kentucky communities have supported fund raising activities through their attendance at Shriner circuses, horse shows, rodeos and athletic events. Businesses contribute by purchasing advertising in programs printed for use during these activities.

In addition, church and civic organizations entertain the children with musical programs and plays. Area Shriners are members of the

Oleika Shrine Temple in Lexington or the El Hasa Temple in Ashland. Many are members of a Shrine club or parade unit in their own communities. Members of these clubs and units are often the clowns or mini-car drivers seen in parades.

The Mount Sterling Shrine club contributed several hundred dollars worth of toys to the children's Christmas celebration. The members purchased the toys with money earned at a Mount Sterling Court Day booth in October.

### Major Health Problems

Two million Americans are accidentally burned each year. About 70,000 of these require hospital treatment — 12,000 eventually die. Of the latter, half are less than 16 years old. Thousands of orthopedic children require help each year.

Many live in towns that cannot provide the necessary medical care. The Shriner centers make this care available.

"We consider the kids we don't treat our liabilities," one hospital administrator said. "The ones we do get to are our assets."



THE STAFF operates dining rooms for the girls and boys, and also for employees. Laundry is also taken care of as about 600 lbs. are done daily, depending on the occupancy.